Thai prime minister here, will talk on 'Thaksinomics'

Story on PAGE A2

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BUGPOWER/ A20

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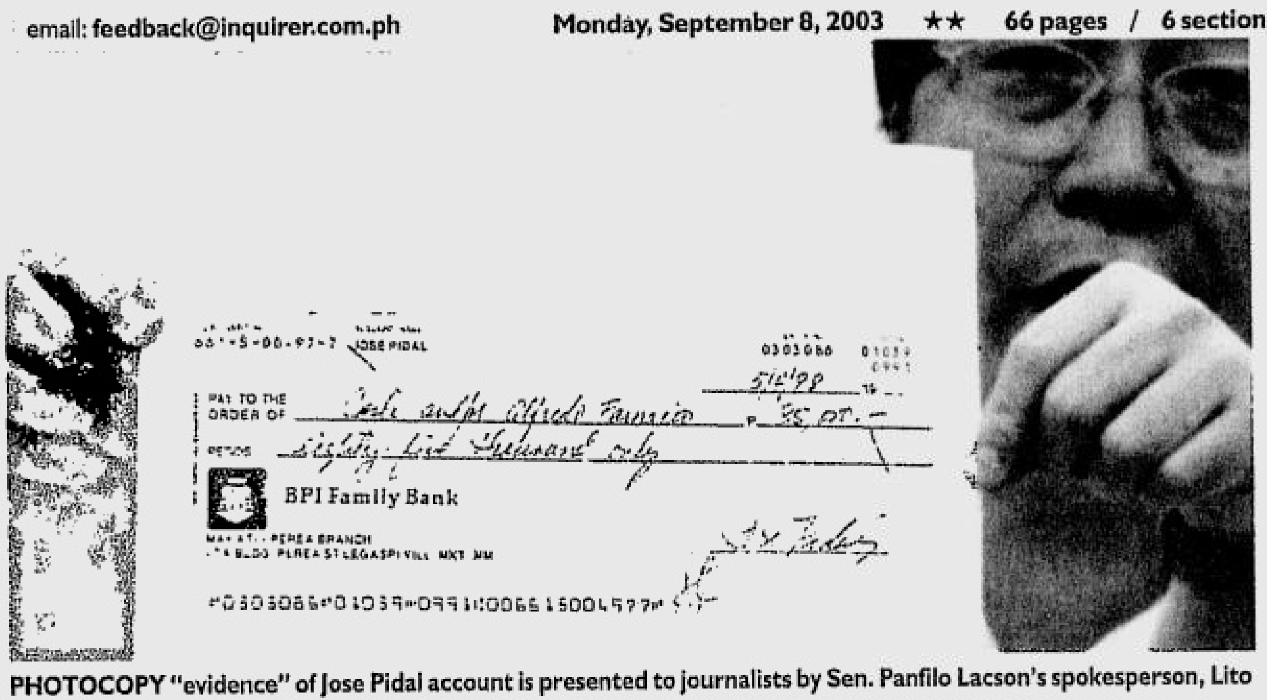


PHOTOCOPY "evidence" of Jose Pidal account is presented to journalists by Sen. Panfilo Lacson's spokesperson, Lito Banayo. JESS YUSON

Lacson camp belies bank, presents Jose Pidal check

By Christine O. Avendaño

CONTRARY to the claims of bank officials, there was a Jose Pidal account at the Bank of the Philippine Islands branch on Perea Street in Makati City, according to the camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Lacson's camp presented yesterday a photocopy of a BPI Family Bank check issued by a Jose Pidal on May 4, 1998 that it said came from a "new informant."

The check for P85,000 from Account No. 661-5-00497-7 was issued by Pidal to "cash and/or Alfredo Fornacio."

Lacson claims that Jose Pidal is First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, whom the senator accuses of laundering at least P260 million in 12 bank accounts of Jose Pidal and his dummies.

"It's obvious they are lying," Lito Banayo, spokesperson for Lacson, said of BPI officials.

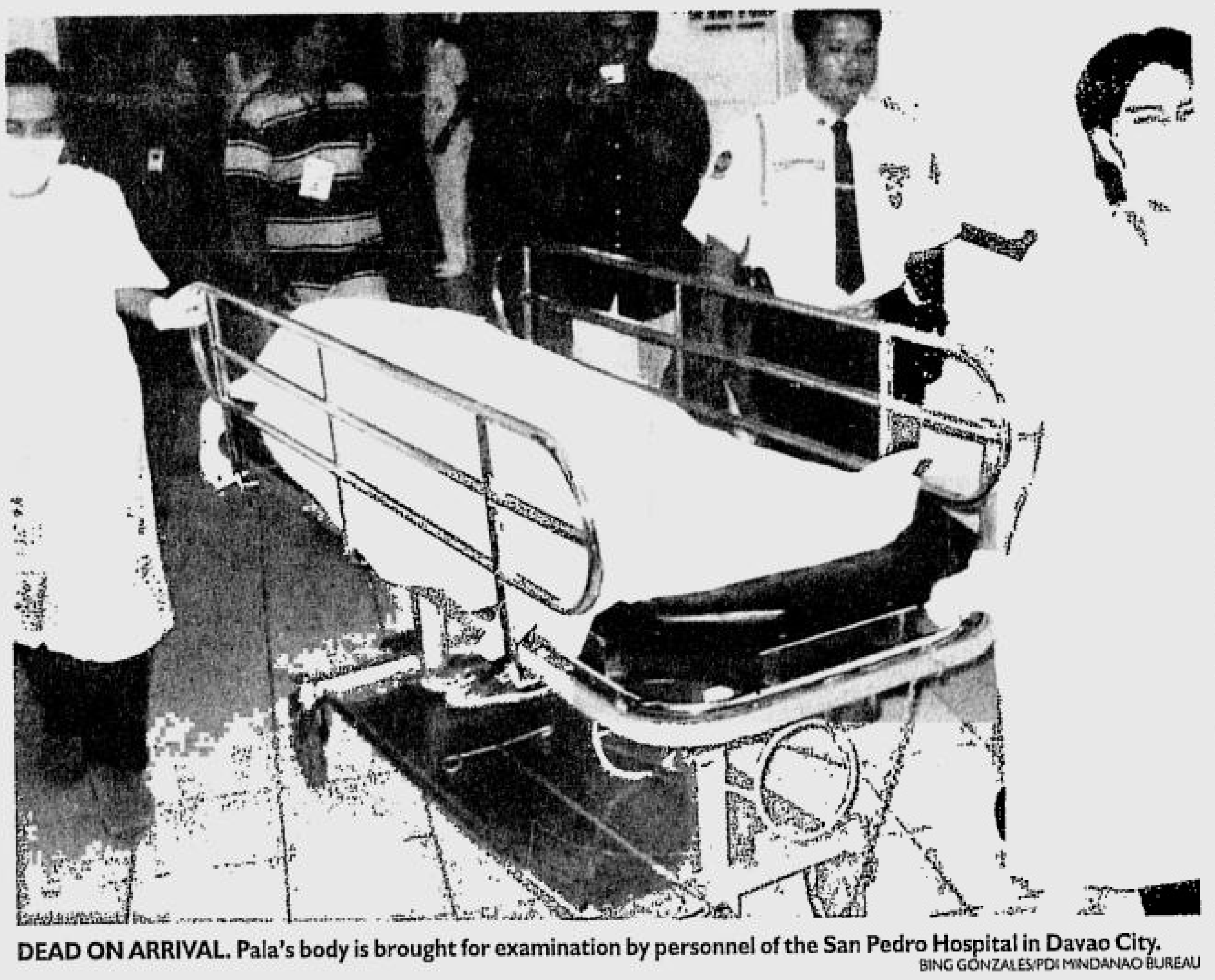
"Now, are they part of the cover-up? That is something for the blue ribbon and the other two committees in the Senate to determine," he said at a news conference at the Solid Mills Building in Makati.

Banayo said the person, who produced a copy of the BPI check issued by Jose Pidal in May 1998, went to Lacson after the senator's erstwhile star witness, Eugenio Mahusay Jr.,

LACSON/ A20

Davao broadcaster Jun Pala shot dead

Assassins succeed on third try to silence victim



DEAD ON ARRIVAL. Pala's body is brought for examination by personnel of the San Pedro Hospital in Davao City. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

By Anthony S. Allada
and Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—"This is Jun Porras Pala, who remains the voice of democracy in the Duterte reign of terror. *Maayong buntag* (Good morning)!"

This familiar line over Manila Broadcasting Corp.'s Aksyon Radyo dxGO here will no longer be heard by Davaoeños.

After failing twice to kill Juan Porras Pala Jr., the city's most popular radio commentator who backed the notorious anticommunist vigilante group Alsa Masa in the 1980s, assassins finally succeeded on Saturday night.

Pala, 49, was on his way home to his house at the Empress Subdivision from the neighboring Vista Village at around 7:35 p.m. when he was shot and killed by two unidentified men armed with an M-16 rifle and a .45 cal. automatic.

Pala was the sixth media person to be murdered in the country this year.

Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña, Southern Mindanao police director, said investigators still had no concrete lead on the identities of Pala's attackers, but added that they could be the same persons who tried to kill the radio commentator in April.

Pala, along with his cousin Roberto Porras and a friend Fred Luas, was walking along a dimly lit portion of the subdivision road when he was shot at least nine times, mostly in the head and chest. According to an Associated Press report. Pala had been at a neighbor's house for a card game.

RADIO commentator Juan Pala Jr. is interviewed by journalists after the second attempt on his life in May. He was killed in an ambush on Saturday. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

The assailants fled with a third companion on board a motorcycle.

Luas was critically wounded, while Porras was unhurt.

Pala's relatives rushed to the scene and brought Pala and Luas to the San Pedro Hospital.

Pala was still fighting for his life on the way to the hospital, said his wife Louise.

"I bet they are very happy now because they finally succeeded in killing him," Louise later told reporters. She said the family was entrusting her husband's case to God, "who knows for sure who did it."

Saturday's ambush was the third attempt on Pala's life since June 2001. In April, armed men waylaid him, but he survived with a single bullet wound in the buttocks.

Right after the second attempt on his life, Pala pointed to Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as the most likely culprit. He said he could not think of anybody else who would try to silence him.

DAVAO/ A21

Release of 3 OFWs pressed

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

IS the repatriation of three jailed Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia, already scheduled for release, being held up by the Philippine Embassy to provide President Macapagal-Arroyo with a photo opportunity?

A militant migrant workers organization has urged the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh to expedite the homecoming of the three overseas Filipino workers who were found innocent of murder. The three were imprisoned in 1997 and lashed 70 times only last month.

Maita Santiago, secretary general of the Migrante International, said the embassy might be waiting for the arrival of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sept.

RELEASE/ A20

Foundation linked to Erap can't account for ₱446M

By Tony S. Bergonia
and Volt Contreras

CLOSE to half a billion pesos that the government could have earned from the country's two major airports, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) 1 and Naia 2, went instead to a foundation that was linked to deposed President Joseph Estrada and people close to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the Saber Development Foundation Inc. earned as much as P446 million from the two airports without paying taxes and got multimillion-peso contracts at the airport with a capitalization of only P50,000.

Records of income earned from porter services at the two airports showed that Saber collected from arriving passengers P115.1 million from March to December 1999, P140.3 million from January to December 2000, and P38.9 million from January to April 2001.

From departing passengers, Saber collected P57.1 million from March to December 1999, P72.4 million from January to

FOUNDATION/ A20

Marian image gentle, drawing force in Taal

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo
and Philip Tan-Gatue, MD
Contributor

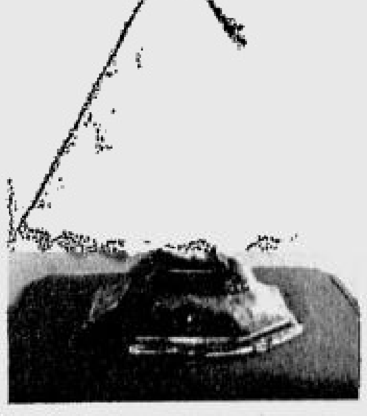
ONE day in 1603, the story goes, a fisherman named Juan Maningkad cast his net into the Pansipit River and found a piece of flotsam carved in the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary among his catch. The prior of Taal, Fray Juan de Bautista, took this as an auspicious sign, a divine favor worthy of a religious celebration.

Since then, the image has inspired generations of Marian devotees.

The devotion to Our Lady of Caysasay marks its 400th anniversary this year, and many pilgrims continue to be quietly drawn to this lakeshore town famous for its distinctive Spanish-era ambience.

Taal, declared a heritage town by the National Historical Commission, offers many reasons for visitors to come. There is the basilica of Saint Martin of Tours,

MARIAN/ A6



STATUE of the Virgin of Caysasay. MA. CERES P. DOYO

GMA target of attacks by Danding, Ping, Gringo

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE SPEECH of San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco before businessmen last week, offering himself as a pro-business and pro-free market alternative to President Macapagal-Arroyo, marks a serious attempt to refocus public attention on the economy, away from the distractions of coup attempts and corruption charges preoccupying the Senate.

By highlighting the economy as the priority issue in the 2004 elections, Cojuangco seeks to rechannel public discourse to the economy and preempt the President, who likes to believe that economics is her forte and economic management her best credential to leadership.

Of those who have indicated their intentions to run for the presidency, only Cojuangco has put emphasis on the economy. He portrays himself as a more qualified economic manager than Ms

GMA/ A20

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/08/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

4 factions push DND candidates

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHO will be the next defense secretary?

There are at least four factions intensely lobbying for their respective bets to replace resigned defense chief Angelo Reyes, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

According to a military source, a group led by former President Fidel Ramos is pushing for Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser for the peace process. A second group involves Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, who favors former Ambassador Roy Cimatu.

The so-called "Ilocano clique" in Malacañang is said to be rooting for former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Diomedio Villanueva, and a fourth faction called "West Point Connection" wants retired Southern Luzon Command chief Thelmo Cunanan for the job.

Cunanan is now president of the Philippine National Oil Co.

The source said the camp of former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, himself a former AFP chief of staff, was also involved but with no specific candidate.

Going by his backer's sheer clout, Ermita, a retired lieutenant general who later became Batangas congressman, has the upper hand, the source said.

In the end, he theorized, the West Point and Ilocano cliques might accede to the Ramos camp. But De Villa, who did not get the ex-President's endorsement in the 1998 presidential election, was not likely to yield, he said.

Ramos' group was the strongest lobbyist, said the source, "because he wants to keep his clout at defense."

President Macapagal-Arroyo did not heed Reyes' recommendation for Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis Jr. to replace him, and decided to hold the defense post for now.

Probe of Davide fuels coup talk

By Carlito Pablo

AN ADMINISTRATION congressman has warned that a "potentially explosive confluence of events" may come into play this week that could tempt "unreformed" military elements to intervene.

Lakas Rep. Prospero Nograles aired this warning as the Supreme Court goes under trial when the House committee on justice starts hearings on Wednesday on the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and seven other justices.

Nograles noted that this development comes as the judiciary's two co-equal branches of government—the executive and legislative—are losing credibility because of political mudslinging and the country's armed services are beset by restiveness.

"It's quite scary and some quarters in the military may feel that they have the opportunity to intervene based on their reading of the Constitution's provision that the Armed Forces is the protector of the State and the people," Nograles said.

Bloodier coup

Another administration congressman, Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., was even more categorical: "There might be another attempt to overthrow the government in the coming days and this time, it could be bloodier."

"The situation is very serious," said Lozada, who is identified with the camp of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Guingona has long-standing policy differences with President Macapagal-Arroyo and some quarters have suggested he should now take over as President.

Lozada, a former aide of former President Ramos, also appeared to have broken away from the administration.

He said Malacañang has "only itself to blame for the continued fall of the peso, the worsening economic situation and the pervasive uneasiness among the people."

Nograles noted that the Davide impeachment hearing comes on the heels of the July 27 failed coup, the continuing destabilization threats, the resignation of defense secretary Angelo Reyes, and worsening relations between the administration and opposition because of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's accusations of corruption against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

"This proves the saying that when it rains, it pours," he said. "It's now raining cats and dogs."

Legality question

The Davide impeachment hearing is expected to revive debate on the legality of the assumption into power of Ms Macapagal during the Edsa II People Power uprising that ousted then President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada House allies filed the complaint against eight SC justices accusing them of violating the Constitution when they installed Ms Macapagal as President.

The other respondents are Justices Arthur Panganiban, Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Jose Vitug, Leonardo Quisumbing, Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona.

Marcos copycat

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla meanwhile claimed that the President's husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was the "male version of Imelda Marcos" and that the Macapagal administration has come to resemble the dictatorial Marcos regime.

He said the two administrations had "striking but eerie similarities in their style and substance of governance and the manner by which they deal with political dissent."

Padilla said that both Presidents had "controversial, high-profile partners accused of abuse of power and dogged by allegations of high-level corruption."

Like Imelda, Mike Arroyo has his own "set of cliques and cronies that do his every bidding," Padilla said.

"He is a power in government and he meddles in appointments of top people to sensitive posts," Padilla said.

Thai premier to talk on 'Thaksinomics'

THE VISIT of Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will be a golden opportunity for his Philippine hosts to learn from the Thai premier's experience in turning his country's economy around, fighting illegal drugs and international terrorism.

Thaksin arrived at 6 p.m. yesterday for a two-day visit and to hold security and trade talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Thailand and the Philippines both belong to an antiterrorism coalition that also includes Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia. Thaksin will have two meetings with the President, including a private dinner last night.

THAI Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

Economists have credited Thaksin's strategy of boosting Thailand's domestic spending power and home-grown enterprises for his country's economic rebound.

Thaksin, 51, one of Thailand's richest men, will speak on his economic policies before local businessmen this morning before formal talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo. For Filipino businessmen, the highlight of his visit will be his speech today on "Thaksinomics."

Six years after the financial crisis that ravaged Asia, Thailand has drawn the envy of its neighbors for its robust economic growth.

A recent poll suggested that more than 70 percent of Thais were happy with the wealthy telecom magnate's handling of the economy and he is expected to win reelection easily in 2005.

In contrast, the Philippine economy has remained in the doldrums.

Ms Macapagal is trying to whip the battered Philippine economy into shape while battling coup plotters.

There are also similarities between Thaksin and Ms Macapagal. Both came to power at the same time in January 2001 and both have launched a war against illegal drugs.

More than 1,600 people have died in Thailand's anti-drug crackdown, prompting harsh criticisms from human rights groups.

Ms Macapagal has also vowed to give no quarter to drug traffickers, neutralizing 49 of about 60 syndicates in recent months.

During the overnight visit, Thaksin and Ms Macapagal will also hold talks to improve bilateral ties.

Thaksin will turn over four aging US-made bomber planes of the Royal Thai Air Force to the ill-equipped Philippine Air Force.

The OV-10 Bronco planes will be used for reconnaissance flights and bombing runs to support ground troops battling Muslim separatist and communist guerrillas in Mindanao, Air Force spokesperson Maj. Restituto Padilla said.

The Philippine Air Force had sought eight of the aircraft, with the remainder to be delivered later this year or next year, Padilla said. *Gerald G. Lacuarta with AP, Reuters reports*

Candidates break rules on spending

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections is helpless in going after candidates who openly disregard the rules on the generation and use of campaign funds due to lack of manpower and resources, a Comelec official admitted yesterday.

National Capital Region Comelec Director Ferdinand Rafanan said the government should hire more accountants and auditors, even on a casual basis, during the election period to enable the Comelec to enforce the law on poll spending and sanction candidates who violate the law.

He said the Comelec lacked the manpower and resources to monitor if candidates follow the rules on campaign contributions.

"Nobody has been disqualified" on the basis of fraudulent expenditure reports, Rafanan said, although he believes that many candidates actually spend more than what the law allows them to on their campaign sorties.

The Comelec could not even verify if the account statements and receipts submitted by politicians were genuine or not, and therefore could not sanction candidates, he said.

Presidential and vice presidential candidates are allowed to spend only P360 million, or P10 per voter.

Senatorial and local candidates may spend P8 per voter or P288 million while independent candidates may spend only P5 per voter or P180 million.

Candidates are required by law to submit their expenditure reports within 30 days after the election.

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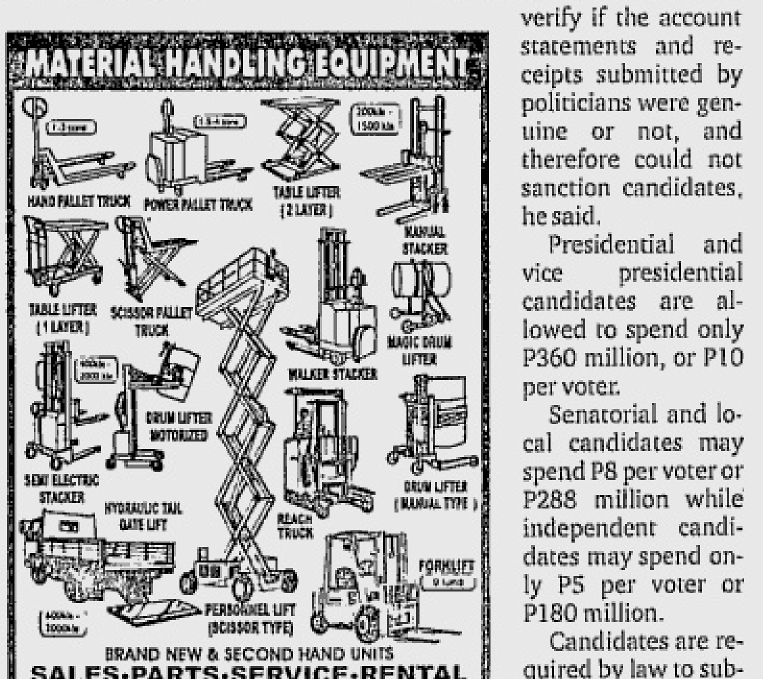

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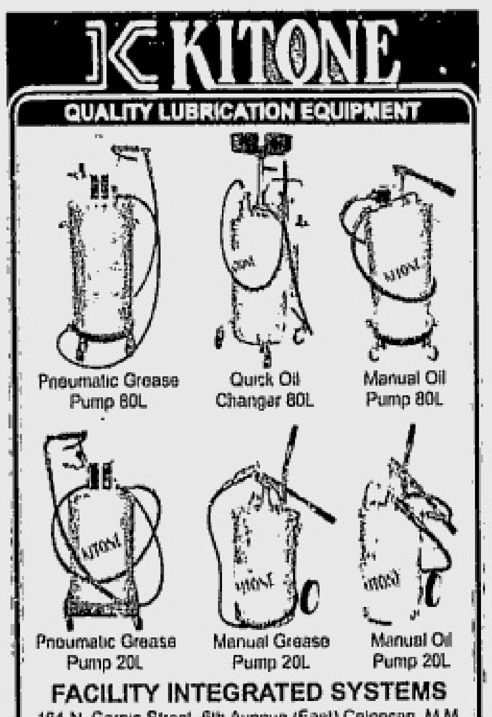

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DAY 03 MT SORAK-SUANBO (B,L,D) AFTER BREAKFAST PROCEED TO [illegible] AND CHUNGJU LAKE CRUISE, OVERNIGHT SUANBO

DAY 04 SEOUL (B,L,D) AFTER BREAKFAST BACK TO SEOUL, CITY TOUR - KYUNGBOK PALACE, FOLKLORE MUSEUM, BLUE HOUSE AND WORLD CUP STADIUM AFTERNOON PROCEED TO EVERLAND THEME PARK WITH BIG 5 TICKET

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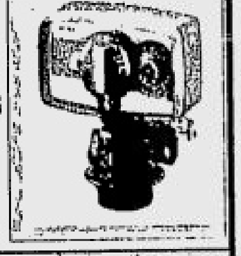

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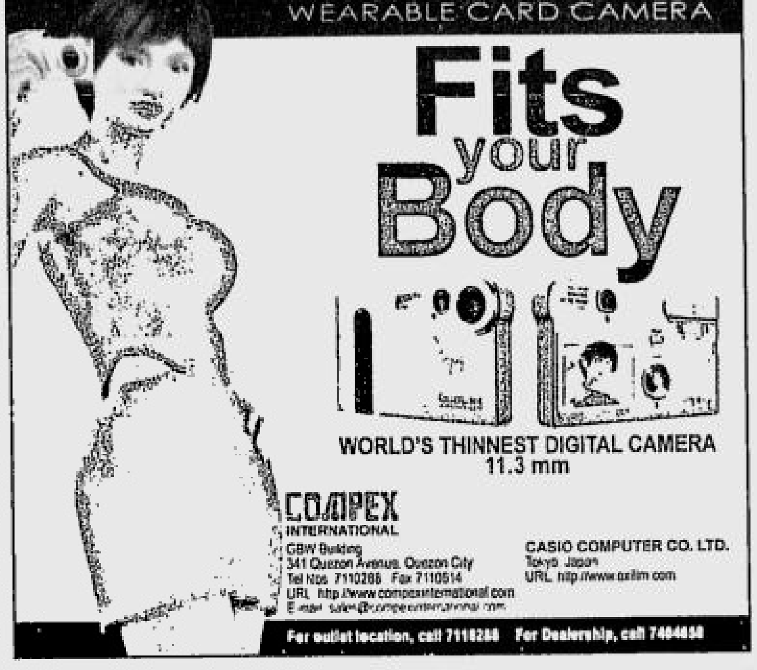

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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. How many planets are there in the solar system?
   a. 10
   b. 9
   c. 8
   d. 13
2. Diabetics cannot produce their own ______ to process sugars.
   a. insulin
   b. saliva
   c. tears
   d. food
3. What does Luzviminda stand for?
   a. Luzy, Vina, Minda
   b. Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao
   c. Lucille, Vanessa, Miranda
   d. Lulu, Vivian, Mimi, Dada
4. What is a favorite Filipino sidewalk snack?
   a. Fishballs
   b. Sinigang
   c. Hamburger
   d. Fruit salad
5. What is the chemical symbol of water?
   a. $C_6H_{12}O_6$
   b. H_2O
   c. NaCl
   d. SiO

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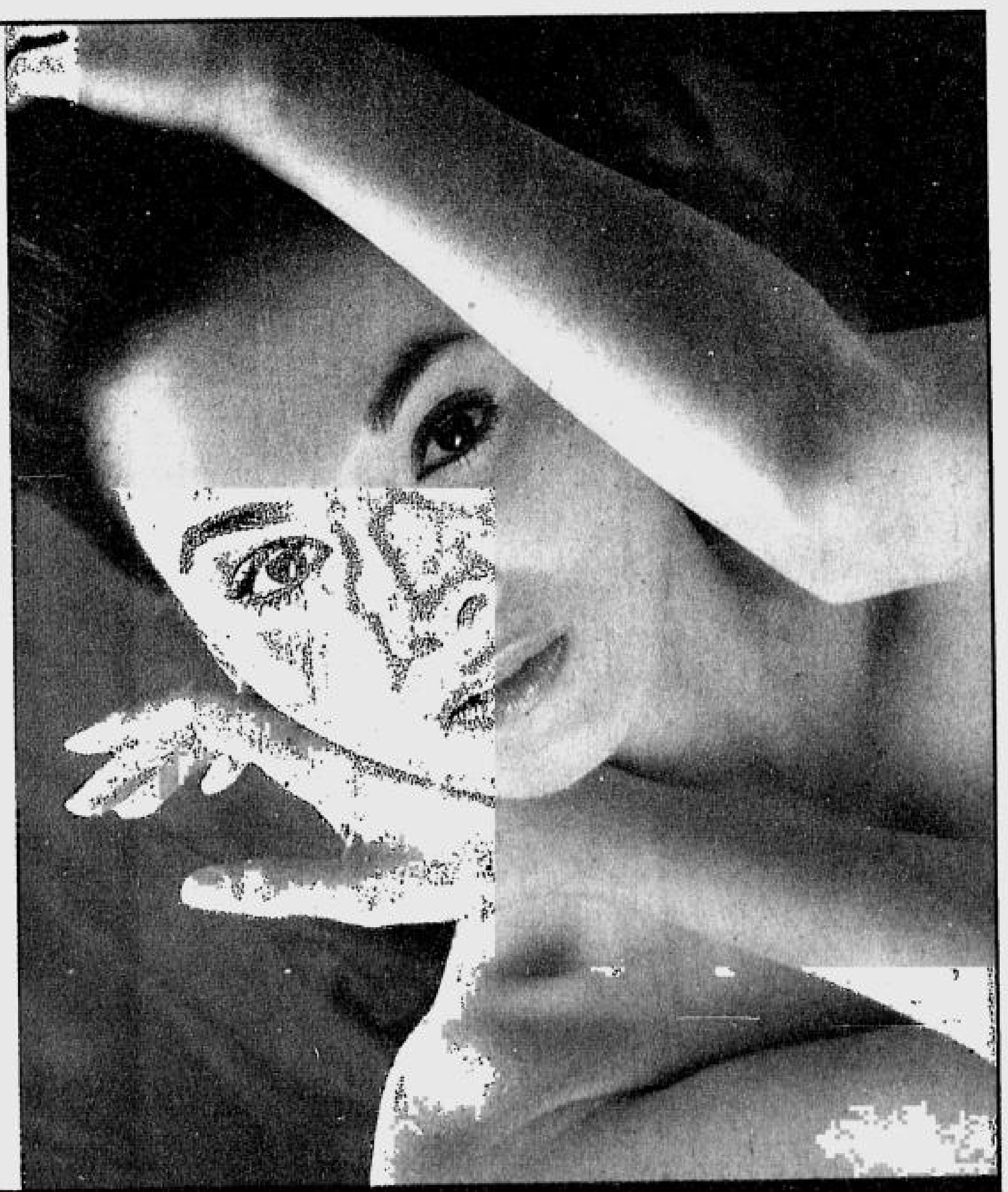

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Malacañang backpedals on GMA oil subsidy idea

By Gil C. Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG swiftly backed down on a proposal to revive the oil price subsidy to help keep fuel prices down, just a day after it was announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her weekly radio message.

In an interview with dzMM radio yesterday, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that the President had no plans to reintroduce the Oil Price Stabilization Fund which had been scrapped a few years ago after the oil industry was deregulated.

Bunye explained that while the government was concerned over the possible inflationary effect of the rising prices of refined petroleum products, it recognized that taxpayers would be burdened by any fuel subsidy and might end up paying for the cost of keeping prices down.

"We agree with the suggestion that we should not have a subsidy because eventually all of us would be the ones to bear this burden," Bunye said.

Instead, the President has prevailed upon 26 fuel pump stations in Metro Manila "to provide selective discounts to the transport sector starting Monday," Bunye said.

The President announced on Saturday that she had ordered transportation and energy departments to study a limited oil subsidy to help keep the price of diesel low.

She did not say how the government could obtain the subsidy but it was a populist proposal guaranteed to appeal to consumers of diesel, the fuel of choice of the country's mass transport system.

Bunye yesterday clarified that what the President meant was for the government to convince the oil refiners to sacrifice some of their profits and to give discounts to transport groups to head off fare increases.

One of the oil firms, Unioil, has heeded the President's appeal and has already agreed to sell its diesel at P15.47 per liter, or 40 centavos off the average retail price of P15.87.

The President promised an urban poor community in Tondo last week that she would move to maintain jeepney and bus fares unchanged even if the price of crude oil increases in the world market.

Bunye said that the President would continue with her visits to poor communities all over the country to personally inform them of the government's antipoverty programs.

The government is observing austerity measures to keep the budget deficit within the target ceiling of P202 billion this year.

The Manila-based Asian Development Bank warned last month that "the level of the (budget) deficit now threatens economic stability," despite indications that belt-tightening measures would arrest the five-year-old fiscal crisis.

It said "the costs of the deficit to achieving broader economic and social objectives have begun to emerge," due to the 29 percent share of debt service to government spending that denies the country the "resources for high priority new investment" and squeezes social services. *With a report from AFP*

Conspiracy alleged in new classification of ampalaya

By Carlito Pablo

"A HIDEOUS conspiracy" is how the chair of the House sub-committee on health standards sees the downgrading of ampalaya (bitter melon) from its previous classification as a "scientifically validated" alternative cure for diabetes.

Rep. Arthur Pingoy Jr. [NPC, South Cotabato] wants Congress to probe the Department of Health's recent order to categorize ampalaya instead as a "folklorically validated" medicinal plant.

Pingoy, a medical doctor, said multinational drug companies and "some high-ranking national officials" could be behind the order.

Ampalaya was among 10 herbs declared as scientifically proven alternative medicines in the early 1990s.

The reclassification order was "untimely, precipitate, reckless and highly suspect," Pingoy insisted.

"This is a serious blow to the current efforts of the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative HealthCare, (which) undertakes the study and promotion of indigenous products, a clear betrayal of national interests," he said.

Citing information from the medical community, Pingoy said multinational drug companies had been "greatly alarmed" by the wide acceptance of capsules and other preparations using ampalaya as main ingredient.

But these companies, represented by the Pharmaceutical and HealthCare Association of the Philippines, denied they had lobbied against the ampalaya-based medicines.

The reclassification should be rectified, otherwise other herbal products that Filipinos have found to be effective and safe could suffer the same fate, Pingoy said.

He threatened to block the approval of the proposed DOH budget for next year.

Asean will stand as one at WTO

THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations will present a united front against the increased imbalance of trade with wealthy nations during the 5th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization which starts on Wednesday in Cancun, Mexico.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said he and his Asean counterparts made this commitment to promote the interests of developing countries during the 25th meeting of the Asean Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry in Kuala Lumpur late last month.

Southeast Asia, home to 550 million people, is the world's fourth largest economic bloc after the United States, the European Union and Japan.

"The efforts of the Philippines and other developing countries to obtain tariff concessions for their agricultural products appear to be gaining headway," Lorenzo said in an interview.

He said WTO General Council Chair Carlos Perez del Castillo of Paraguay earlier issued a revised draft ministerial declaration that included inputs from the Philippines "for the first time since we joined (the organization in 1995)."

It adopted the Philippine position on "strategic products" facing unfair competition from abroad, and special safeguard mechanisms for the affected countries.

Militant farmers are pressing for a pullout from the WTO, claiming the market has been flooded with cheap imported agricultural products. The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas warned that Filipinos might soon find farm production non-viable. *Norman Bordadora*

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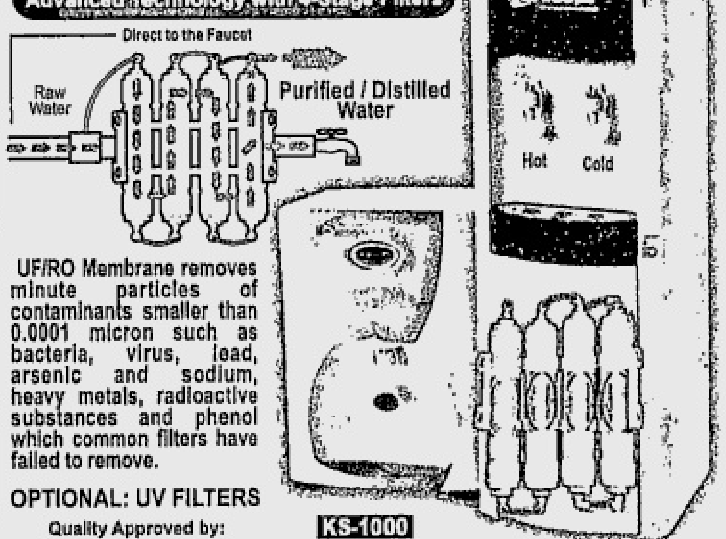

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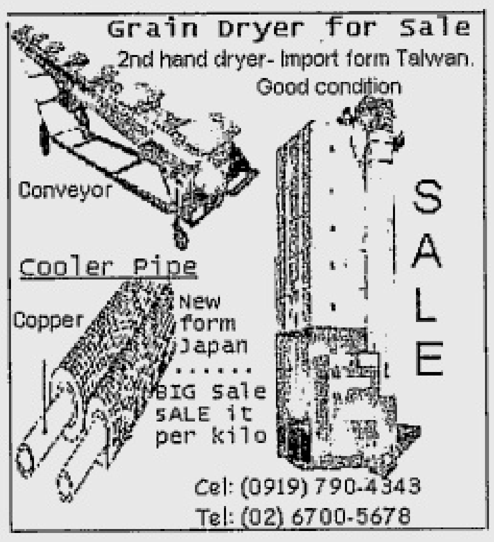

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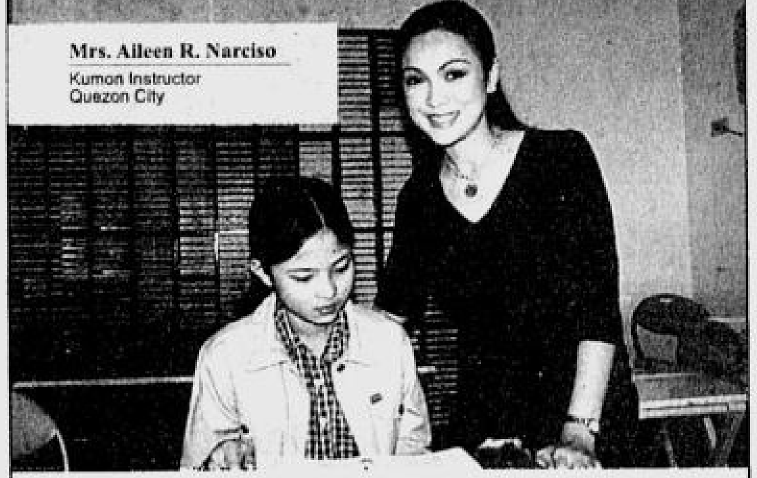

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GMA: Cha-cha not the answer

AMENDING the Constitution now was "not the solution" to military and police restiveness and the destabilization plots against the government, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Bunye explained that while President Macapagal-Arroyo favored constitutional amendments, including the adoption of a federal system as the key to peace in Mindanao, it was not timely to make those reforms now.

"I think she is not referring to immediate Charter change now," he said, adding she has also made it clear that Charter change should be left in the hands of Congress. *Gil C. Cabacungan*

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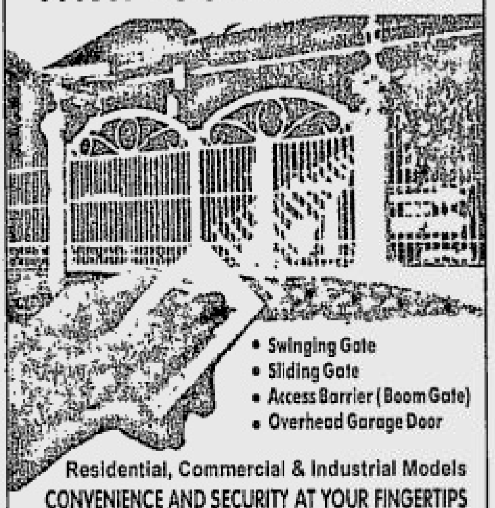

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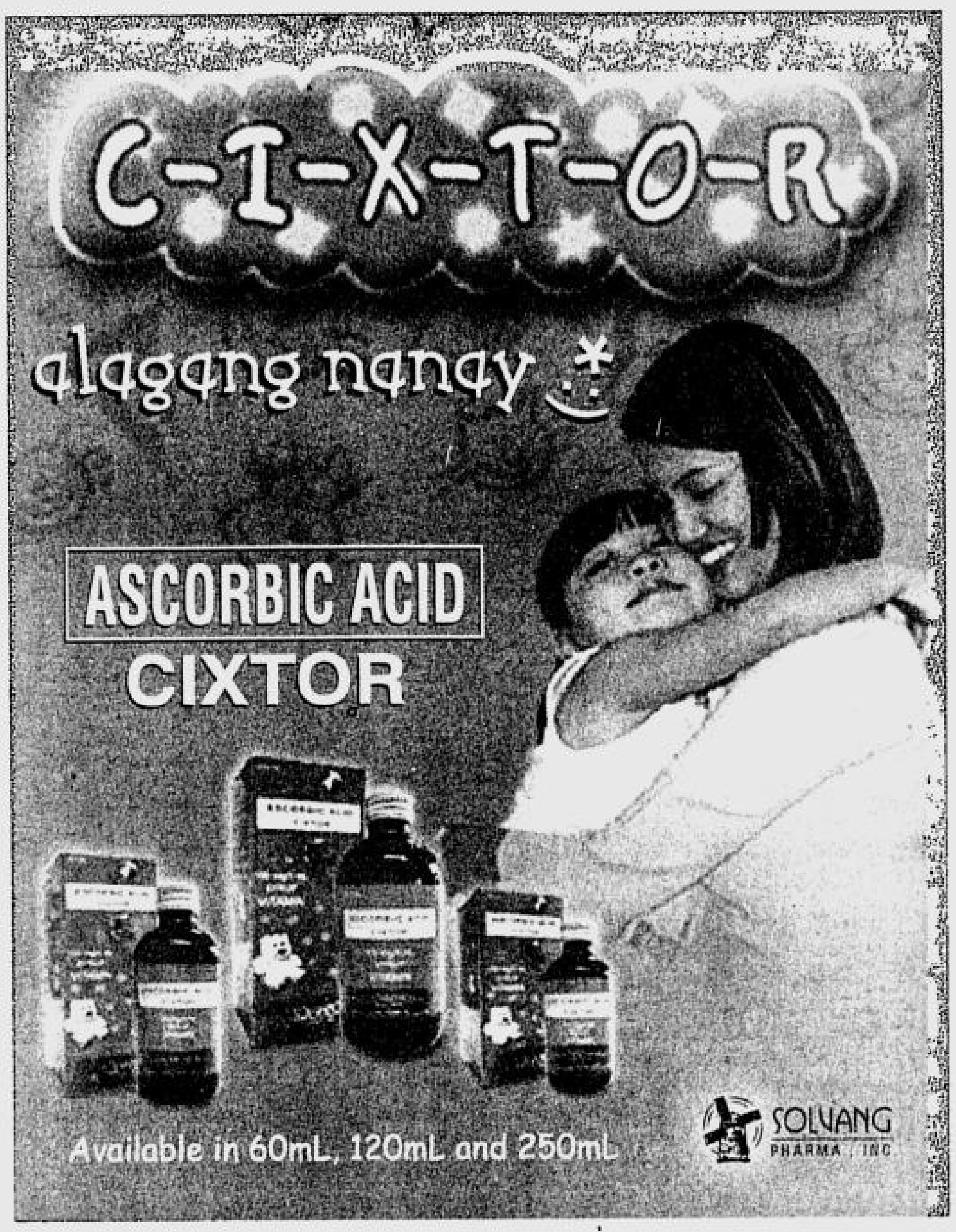
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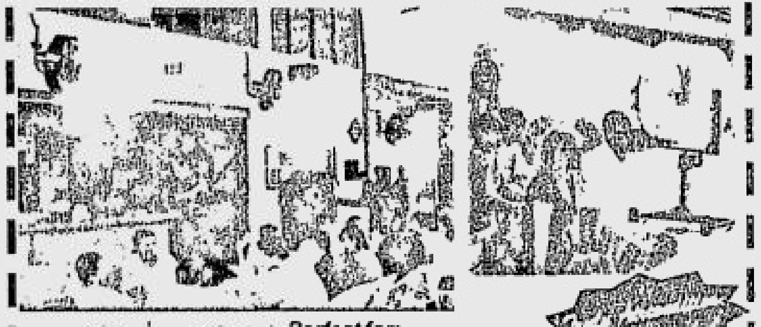

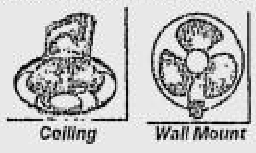
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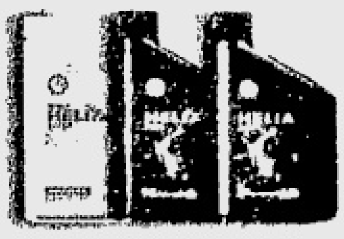

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Marian image gentle, drawing force in Taal

From page A1

known to be the biggest in Asia; the ancient homes and ruins; the lake and its active volcano, the unparalleled *calado* embroidery oh *piña* and *jusi* that has become famous. Taal's culinary offerings are just as delightful—the *suman*, *panocha*, *tapa* and, most of all, the freshwater fish *maliputo* found only in the Pansipit River, so mouth-watering and so rare one needs gunpower to bid for it.

But the gentle drawing force, the Taaleños would tell you, is the Virgin of Caysasay herself. The rough Marian statue, barely a foot tall, has had a salutary influence on the life of the town and its neighbors. Unbelievers might dismiss the fuss as idolatry, but believers would argue that it is not the weather-beaten piece of wood that is being venerated but the great woman it represents.

Who is she, what is she, that Taal feels blessed by her presence?

Like Guadalupe

The history of the Virgin of Caysasay is the stuff most Marian stories are made of, as fascinating, if not culture-laden, as that of Mexico's famous Lady of Guadalupe.

"To tell about this diminutive replica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception is to unravel a quaint tapestry of historical data interwoven with an awe-inspiring folklore of a deeply religious community," one brochure reads.

After Maningkad found the image, the prior of Taal gave it for safekeeping to Maria Espiritu, the widow of a judge, who kept it in a special place. Soon the woman noticed the strange disappearance and reappearance of the statue.

A priest named Fray de Montoya decided to have the statue transferred to the church, but the strange occurrence continued until the statue completely disappeared one day.

A few days later, two other Marias—Maria Baguhin and Maria Talain—claimed they knew where the image could be found.

They said they were gathering firewood in a place some seven kilometers from the town when they stopped to drink from a well. They saw the image reflected on the water and when they looked up, there it was, the image on a branch of a *sampaga* tree. Lit candles were on each side. And perched on a branch as if to keep watch was a *casaycasay* bird. (The place has now become known as Caysasay.)

No one believed the two Marias at first, but the women eventually persuaded the priest to check out the place. The image was found and brought back to the church. Again the statue disappeared. Again it was found in the same place.

The people took this to mean as the Virgin's desire for a permanent abode. (Augustinian friars ran the churches in many places at that time and were noted for their building prowess.)

A temporary chapel was built until a permanent structure made of corals and marble was erected. An arch was also built over the well that had borne the Virgin's image. The arch still stands there today, a few meters from the church and convent, which now serves as an orphanage run by the Oblates of the Holy Spirit.

Miracle stories

Stories about miracles attributed to the Virgin of Caysasay continue to be told to this day. One of them is about the 1754 eruption of Taal Volcano that made the transfer of the town from its old site necessary. Another is about the threat of a Moro attack. A swarm of bees was said to have attacked the invaders and the sand swirled into the air to hold them at bay.

There is also the story of a Chinese named Haybing, a devotee whose faith in the Virgin saved him during the anti-Chinese campaign of the 1639. Haybing, according to the story, is said to have escaped beheading. Much later his faith weakened and he met a violent end. He was gored by his own carabao.

In Taal, laments one resident, Chinese business is never allowed to thrive or compete and this so to this day. But many Chinese-Filipinos from other towns, according to one account of Taal's history, are devotees of the Virgin. They, too, celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, with the Virgin of Caysasay as guest in Lipa or Batangas City. They have even built a chapel in her honor.

The Virgin of Caysasay's canonical coronation was held on Dec. 8, 1954, with Pope Pius XII's representative Fernando Cardinal Quiroga y Palacio present.

The original

Where does the original statue of the Virgin of Caysasay reside? In the smaller church of the Immaculate of Conception in Labac, her original home, or in the huge Basilica of St. Martin of Tours near the town center?

The Virgin is in both places.

Replicas of the original statue occupy prominent places there. The original is kept and brought out on special days. Devotees cannot tell the difference and, it should be stressed, the piece of worn-out wood is not the piece de resistance. The Virgin is—she who is ever present in the lives of those who believe.

Transferring the image from the village church in Labac to the basilica (since its completion in 1857) and returning it on certain days to its village home used to be a custom. Taaleños recall the controversy that erupted in the 1950s when Bishop Rufino Santos (later the first Filipino cardinal) proposed that the Virgin should be permanently enshrined in Labac.

The people of the town center were adamant and afraid to lose the Virgin forever, should Labac become an independent municipality. They were polarized into two camps and the bishop was forced to get out of the way when an irate citizen shouted, "*Gapusin and obispo!* (Hogtie the bishop!)" The church official was no match to the Taaleños' attachment to the Virgin.

On Saturday, Sr. Agnes Cano of the Oblates of the Holy Spirit brought out the original wooden statue for the INQUIRER to observe.

The Virgin is very small, overwhelmed by a conical *calado* robe that goes up to her neck. Long artificial hair has been placed over her head whose carved tresses are but a trace. A rich *kayumanggi* (brown), she is adorned with a gold crown with precious stones.

She looks the part. No longer an itinerant, vanishing lady, she is peacefully at home in the hearts of generations of Taaleños and other Filipinos.

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'Hands off' on Perez

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will not interfere in any investigation into the alleged $2-million extortion case involving former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

"The President will not intervene. She will not give any protection to the former justice secretary. The appropriate department can go ahead and initiate the investigation," Bunye told RMN radio.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US scrambles to salvage ME 'roadmap'

WASHINGTON—The United States strove Saturday to salvage its "roadmap" to Middle East peace after Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas' resignation further tore at the already frayed blueprint.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said that US officials were reaching out to their Israeli and Palestinian counterparts, and urged all parties to "consider carefully the consequences of their actions" for the peace process.

"We are following events in the region closely and our representatives are in touch with all interested parties," he said in a statement released hours after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accepted Abbas' resignation.

"We remain committed to implementation of the roadmap, working with Israelis, Palestinians, Arab States who seek peace," as well as the diplomatic "quartet" that crafted the peace plan, said spokesperson Scott McClellan.

That group includes the European Union, the United Nations, Russia, and the United States, which had made Abbas' appointment a precondition for releasing the blueprint and moving toward the creation of a Palestinian state.

"The creation of the office of prime minister was a key turning point for the Palestinian Authority in the development of new institutions to serve all the people, not just a corrupt few tainted by terror," he said.

US President George W. Bush had pinned much of Washington's hopes on Abbas, who is also known as Abu Mazen, even welcoming him to the White House July 25 after steadfastly refusing to sit down—or even talk—with Arafat.

And McClellan insisted that the Palestinians must battle anti-Israeli violence, saying: "The prime minister must be supported by a Cabinet committed to fighting terror, political reform, and rooting out corruption."

Arafat, who accepted the resignation, said Abbas would head up a caretaker government for the next five weeks, after which he would either be asked to form a new government or his replacement will be appointed.

"We hope the Palestinian legislature will continue to act in a way that empowers the prime minister to fight terror and bring a better way of life to the Palestinian people," said McClellan.

Separately, US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher welcomed a decision by the European Union foreign ministers to blacklist the political wing of the radical Palestinian group Hamas.

"This is an important step," he said in a statement. "We look for the EU to carry through with the political decision it reached today, and to take action against Hamas on an urgent basis."

The EU decision, which Washington had pushed strongly, coincided with a Hamas vow to avenge a failed assassination attempt by Israel against its spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin. *AFP*

EU agrees to blacklist Hamas, freeze its assets

RIVA DEL GARDA, Italy—EU foreign ministers agreed Saturday to blacklist the political wing of radical Palestinian group Hamas and freeze its assets, after opponents of the move led by France lifted their objections.

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, who had argued that marginalizing Hamas in negotiations would be counterproductive, accepted the move in the wake of a resurgence of violence after a collapsed ceasefire.

"A consensus has been found to decide to include Hamas on the list of terrorist organizations," De Villepin told reporters after an EU foreign ministers' meeting on the shores of Italy's Lake Garda.

The breakthrough agreement came as the Middle East peace process was plunged into a new crisis with the resignation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas.

The EU decision—pushed for strongly by the United States—also coincided with a Hamas vow to avenge a failed assassination attempt by Israel against its spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

"This decision is a strong signal," said Italy's Franco Frattini, who currently holds the EU presidency reins.

The EU banned the Hamas military wing in 2001, but not the political wing, which is responsible for a number of charitable and educative activities.

But British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said there was now "overwhelming evidence" that Hamas was in fact one organization, which should be totally blacklisted.

"The issue has been 'are they two organizations or one?' The evidence is very clear that they are a single organization, in which the political wing is ordering the terrorist outrages."

Straw recalled the EU summit meeting had looked into the question of blacklisting Hamas in June, but put that on hold when Hamas agreed to join a ceasefire.

"But they literally blew that up on the 19th of August," when Hamas claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Jerusalem that killed 21 people, he said.

The British minister added that the details of the ban would be finalized in Brussels on Monday. There had been discussion of exactly which groups and individuals should be put on the EU blacklist.

"If there is a ban—as I believe there will be—all sides of Hamas will be concerned," Straw said, adding that there was no reason why the Palestinian Authority should not take over the social work carried out by Hamas.

The French minister meanwhile said he had asked his colleagues to reflect on the circumstances under which the EU might be able to reverse its decision.

Quite clearly, this would have to entail "renunciation of violence and terrorism. That must be a message that is well-understood by Hamas," De Villepin said.

But he added that the EU's decision should also lead to greater Israeli efforts to seek an end to violence in the Middle East and fulfill the conditions of the roadmap to Middle East peace.

"We strongly urge Israel to engage fully in the implementation of the roadmap with concrete gestures," he said.

This included Israel halting the building of new Jewish settlements and ending the construction of a fence separating the Israeli and Palestinian communities "along a route that prejudges political decisions," he said.

The European intention to freeze Hamas assets followed similar action taken by the Palestinian leadership on Aug. 28, when it blocked the bank accounts of charities linked to the Islamic organization. *AFP*

Hamas founder survives missile attack from jet

GAZA CITY—Israel wounded Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of the Islamic militant movement Hamas, and about 14 other people in an air strike in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, medics said.

Hamas officials said the wheelchair-bound Yassin, a co-founder of Hamas, had left a house moments before a missile struck it in a densely populated area in Gaza City and was treated in hospital for a slight wound in his right hand.

They said they believed Yassin was the target of the attack.

He had been visiting the home of Marwan Abu Ras, a university lecturer and Hamas official, at the time.

Abu Ras told Reuters the missile struck his home just moments after Yassin and another Hamas official, Ismail Haniyeh, left after hearing Israeli fighter aircraft overhead. They had been planning to sit down to lunch.

"We heard a loud noise and then everything went black and then red before my eyes," he said, while being treated in hospital for injuries to his chest and leg.

It was not clear whether a helicopter gunship or a fighter jet had carried out the attack, the latest in a series of military strikes against Hamas since a suicide bombing killed 22 Israelis on a Jerusalem bus on Aug. 19.

Israel launched the attack hours after moderate Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas submitted his resignation. It was not clear from conflicting reports whether President Yasser Arafat had accepted it.

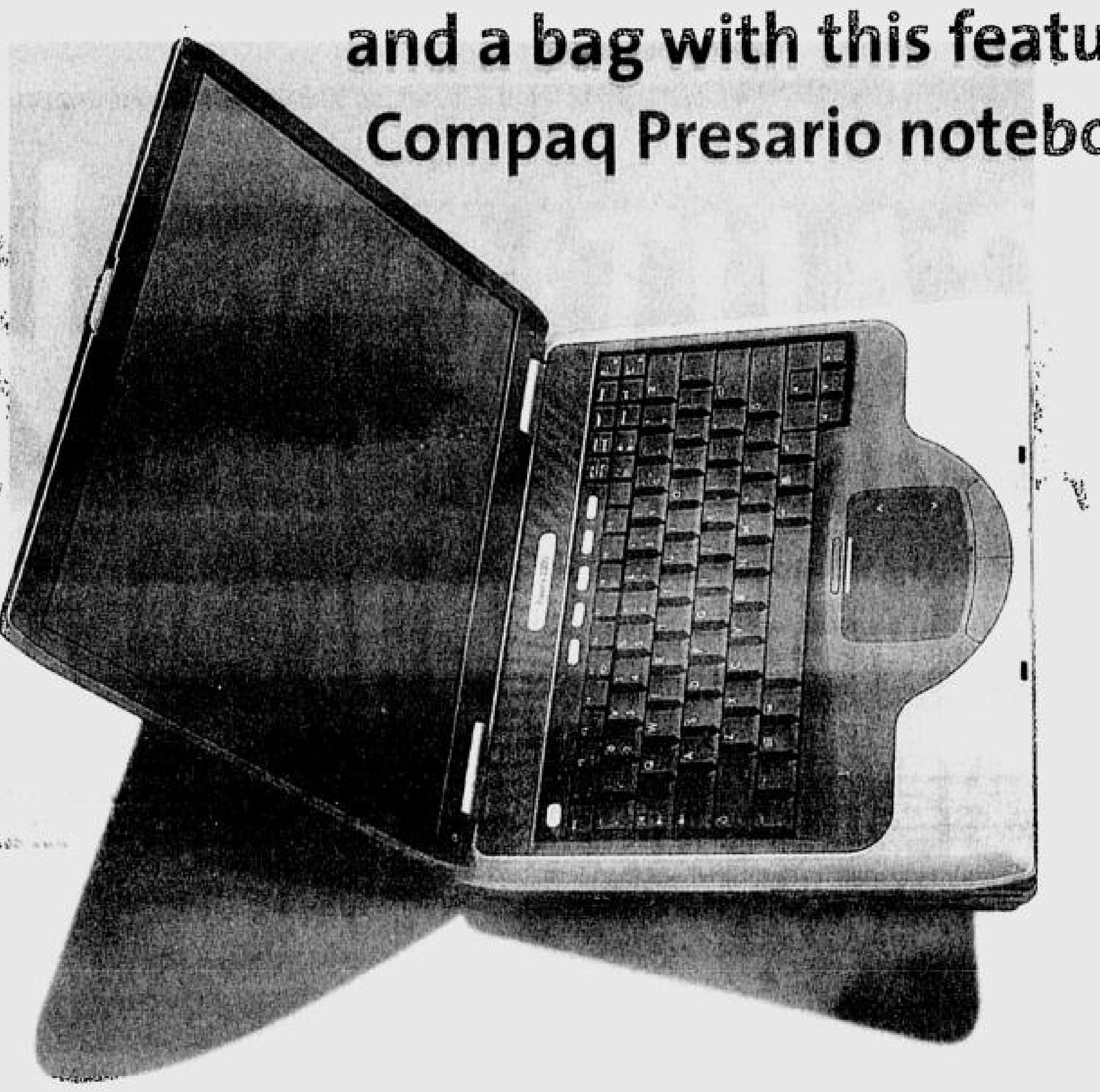
The Israeli military said the air force had attacked a building where Hamas leaders including Yassin were meeting "to plan future terror attacks against Israelis," and vowed to continue waging "relentless war against Hamas."

Israel has said it is attacking and killing Hamas militants because Abbas and Arafat have failed to carry out pledges to rein them in—an obligation under a US-backed peace plan.

Palestinian officials say the attacks undermine their efforts to rein in militants and that Israel has destroyed much of their security infrastructure.

Hamas is opposed to the state of Israel and has carried out suicide bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began almost three years ago.

As the wounded were rushed to the hospital, hundreds of supporters of Hamas gathered outside and chanted demands for revenge attacks against Israel, with shouts of "dear Yassin, bomb Tel Aviv." *Reuters*



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Rumsfeld admits US had dropped ball in Iraq

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush was preparing a major address on his Iraq policy for Sunday night after Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld admitted the United States may have dropped the ball in failing to annihilate Saddam Hussein's forces.

More British troops were meanwhile headed for Iraq from their base on Cyprus, bringing their number in the war-torn country to a total of 10,620.

"They are going to be reinforcing the multinational force in the southeast based in Basra and they are going to be involved in a variety of tasks, all of them related to security," British military spokesperson Major Niall Greenwood said.

Rumsfeld, wrapping up a three-day inspection of Iraq on Saturday, insisted the Iraqi people take more responsibility for security in the US-occupied country.

But he also acknowledged the litany of daily attacks on coalition troops there may have had its roots in the United States' failure to chase down Saddam's forces during the war and to anticipate the type of problems it would face afterwards.

Coalition ground forces commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez insisted he had no need of reinforcements in Iraq, given the sort of low-intensity warfare being mounted against his troops.

Sanchez acknowledged that his forces had faced some 15 attacks a day over the past five days, but said that in half of those the assailants used mortars or remotely detonated bombs and never came close enough to be engaged.

Bush, his eyes fixed on the November 2004 presidential election campaign, has resolved to ask the United Nations for more help in Iraq.

As the cost of American financing Iraq's reconstruction continues to mount and as its troop numbers continue to remain stretched, Bush has instructed Secretary of State Colin Powell to support a UN Security Council resolution that would pave the way for a greater United Nations role in Iraq.

The Bush administration hopes the resolution will offer some relief to the 140,000 odd US troops deployed in the war-torn country as well as on the budgetary pressures being applied to the nation's finances.

Before leaving Iraq for Afghanistan, Rumsfeld said, "One of the things that took place in this country that I think contributed to the circumstances we are in today—the security circumstance—was that the war was never finished.

"Most of the battles that took place were south. As Baghdad was approached, the forces north of Baghdad fought for a period but at some point melted into the countryside.

"As a result there are still Baathist elements that are there causing the security problem," he said.

Two surface-to-air missiles were fired at a US military C-141 transport plane Saturday as it was taking off from Baghdad airport, hours before Rumsfeld's departure, but missed, a senior US defense official said.

Bush was not expected to announce any major new initiatives in his speech scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Sunday, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said, but would rather give a progress report on the overall war on terrorism.

"The president felt this was a good time to talk to the American people about our progress and our needs moving forward," McClellan said.

In New York, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told CNN he was seeking a clear role for the United Nations in an Iraq resolution being debated in the Security Council.

"I think it is possible to get a compromise resolution," Annan said, adding he would like to get together with the foreign ministers of the 15 countries in the near future "to explore a common ground and a way to move forward." Annan said he wanted to see "a very clear definition for the role of the United Nations. That the mandate must be precise and achievable." *AFP*

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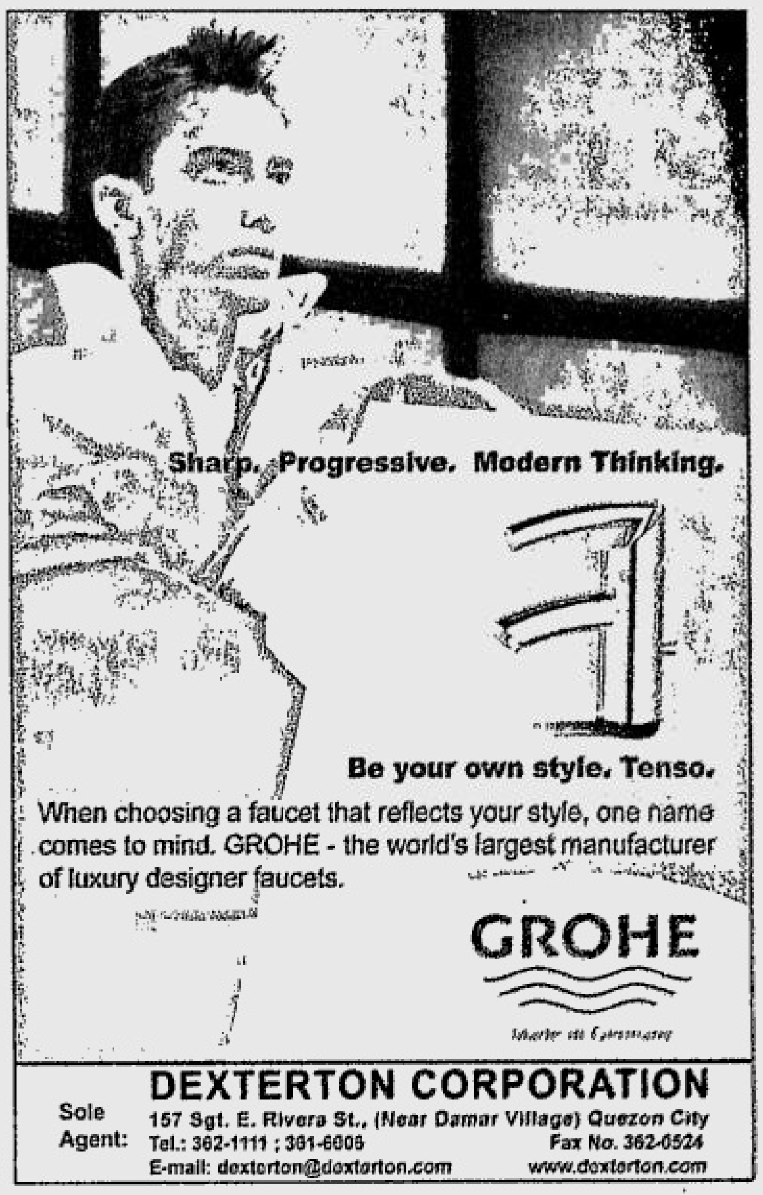
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Thais keep 500,000 endangered animals

BANGKOK—Nearly 500,000 protected and endangered animals kept privately by Thais have been registered following an amnesty granted under new wildlife legislation, press reports said Sunday.

Under Thailand's 2003 Wildlife Conservation Act, which came into force on May 19, an amnesty was reportedly proclaimed permitting the keeping of protected animals provided they were acquired before the law came into force.

People raising hornbills, crocodiles, snakes, monkeys, tigers, green peafowls, golden cats and other species came forward to register their animals ahead of a 120-day deadline Tuesday, the Nation newspaper reported.

In northern Phitsanulok province, a hotel owner registered four tigers illegally kept to pose with visitors for photographs, the report said.

Wildlife poaching is rampant in Thailand and most of Southeast Asia.

Much of the trade however is driven in large measure by the Chinese appetite for exotic dishes and faith in traditional medicines which use ingredients from the animals, rather than a desire for unusual pets. *AFP*

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Suu Kyi not on hunger strike, Red Cross finds

RANGOON—The Red Cross, the first independent agency to meet Aung San Suu Kyi since she was reported on hunger strike last week, said on Saturday Burma's detained opposition leader was well and not fasting.

Two officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) met Suu Kyi privately for one hour earlier on Saturday.

"They asked her if she was on hunger strike and she said: 'No'," ICRC spokesperson Jean-Pascal Moret told Reuters, confirming a government statement on the visit.

"This afternoon the ICRC paid a visit to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to deliver the family messages," the statement said.

"According to the ICRC, they found her well and also that she was not on hunger strike as alleged by some quarters."

The US state department first reported the hunger strike last Sunday, a day after new Burma (Myanmar) Prime Minister Khin Nyunt promised a "roadmap to democracy" in a speech three months after Suu Kyi was detained.

It repeated the assertion on Tuesday after the military junta denied it and other sources could not confirm it.

State department spokesperson Richard Boucher, asked later in the week for an update on her status, said: "We had credible information about Aung San Suu Kyi being on a hunger strike."

Saturday's ICRC visit was the second permitted by the military since July, and had been requested before the US hunger strike report, Moret said.

"She said she was not on hunger strike. Whether that includes the past and the present, I cannot say," Moret said.

The military has kept Suu Kyi at an unknown location since May 30, after a bloody clash between her convoy and government supporters in northern Burma.

The government says she is being held for her own protection and has ignored an international outcry over her detention. It says it will free her when the political temperature cools.

Suu Kyi, a 58-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, won a general election in 1990 but the military prevented her party from taking office.

The pro-democracy icon has been in and out of detention for the past 14 years, most recently the last three months, despite repeated international appeals for her release.

Burma has accused Washington of spreading a false hunger strike report in an effort to undermine the junta's roadmap, already dismissed by opposition groups as ploy to keep power.

Khin Nyunt, also the powerful head of military intelligence, mentioned Suu Kyi only once in his speech on Aug. 30—and that was while criticizing her party.

Diplomats and exiled opposition groups said Khin Nyunt's speech was an attempt to deflect international pressure on the junta to free Suu Kyi and make clear moves toward democracy.

The United States and the European Union have imposed tougher sanctions, while Japan has frozen new aid. Burma's neighbors oppose sanctions, but they issued an unprecedented rebuke in June and say Suu Kyi must be freed.

Reuters

Women in the land of Kamasutra not interested in sex, thank you

NEW DELHI—Despite living next to erotic temple art in a land that produced the Kamasutra, the world's oldest sex treatise, it seems Indian women are not interested in sex, a survey by a leading newsmagazine suggests.

And premarital sex? Forget about it. Don't even think of talking about oral sex, the respondents to a weekend survey by India Today said.

Most Indian women are trapped between "propriety and pleasure," the survey of women aged 19 to 50 found.

"For 25 percent of women nationwide sexuality is still a problem area, treating it as they do with inexplicable indifference."

At least 41 percent of women polled said that they did not know or at least would not comment on oral sex.

"Frequent sex doesn't translate into better sex," the poll concluded.

"Only 8 percent have sex daily. Masturbation and extramarital sex, associated with guilt across the world by women, have few takers in India," said the poll. A staggering 75 percent of Indian women never masturbated.

Women were interviewed in their homes in 10 cities across the world's second most populous nation by the newsmagazine and AC Nielsen's Org Marg.

As many as 2,305 women were interviewed. The survey report did not specify the margin of error.

It found women in the southern city of Madras were most conservative, while Delhi women were comparatively happy to experiment in bed.

Overall, the survey showed most women still believed in traditional marriages and fidelity, although 67 percent claimed they would "talk and sort it out" if their partner strayed.

Even talking about sex is taboo in parts of India, the magazine found. The poll ran into some trouble in the northern city of Jaipur, where "some questionnaires were torn and even police complaints registered."

AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 8, 2003
Birth of Mary

1st Reading: Mic 5:1-4 or Rom 8:28-30
Gospel: Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary, his mother, had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her.

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him 'Jesus' for he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel which means: God-with-us.

Commentary

"Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit." God did not create the world out of chance. He has a plan for the world and for mankind. But sin came in to frustrate that plan. God's response was not of condemnation but the making of another plan: the plan of salvation. And Mary was part of this great plan. She was chosen to be the mother of the messiah, the savior of the world. The birth of Mary by St. Ann was an affirmation of God's loving commitment to save mankind. God does not give up on us. He continues to challenge us so as to respond in freedom to his invitation of living our lives in responsible loving.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Presence of affidavit of desistance does not warrant dismissal of administrative case—It also appears that complainants, upon the intercession of their superior, Datu Ashary M. Alauya and as per plea of respondent Doronio, filed an Affidavit of Desistance insofar as respondent Doronio is concerned. The desistance is of no moment. We reiterate the rule that an affidavit of desistance does not warrant the dismissal of an administrative case. It has been consistently held by this court that a complaint for malfeasance or misfeasance against a public servant of whatever rank, cannot be withdrawn at any time for whatever reason by a complainant as this is "anathema to the preservation of the faith and confidence of the citizenry in their government, its agencies and instrumentalities." Administrative proceedings "should not be made to depend on the whims and caprices of complainants who are in a real sense, only witnesses therein." [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Puno, Guro v. Doronio, A.M. No. 2002-6-SC, February 5, 2003]

By R. B. Vera

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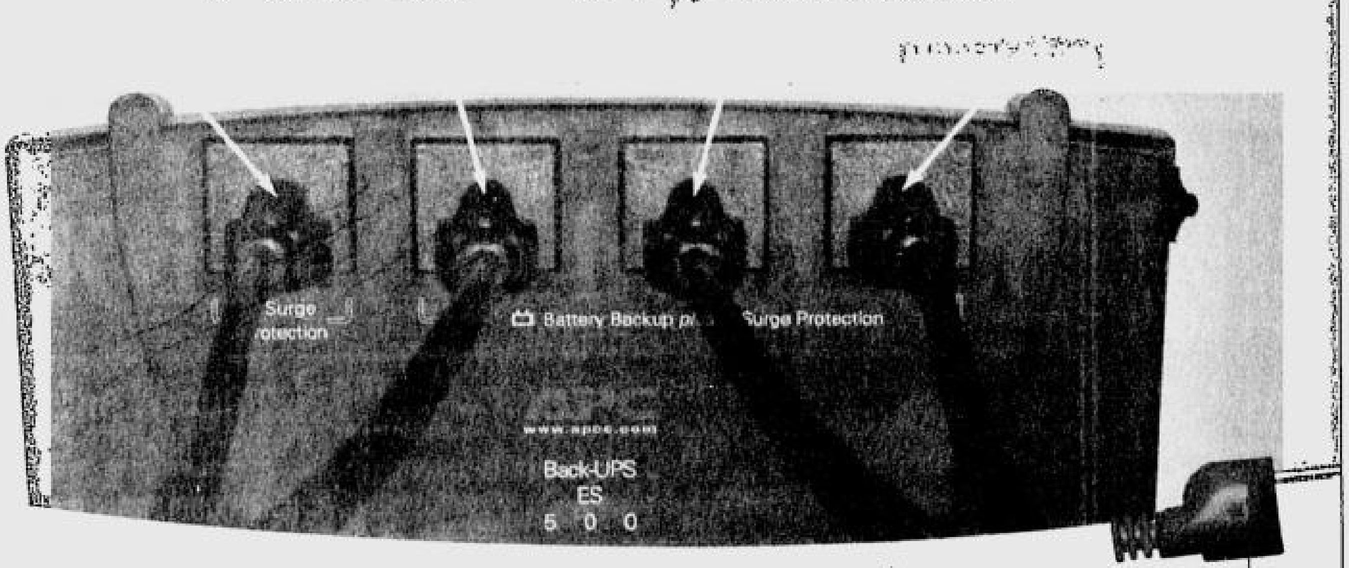

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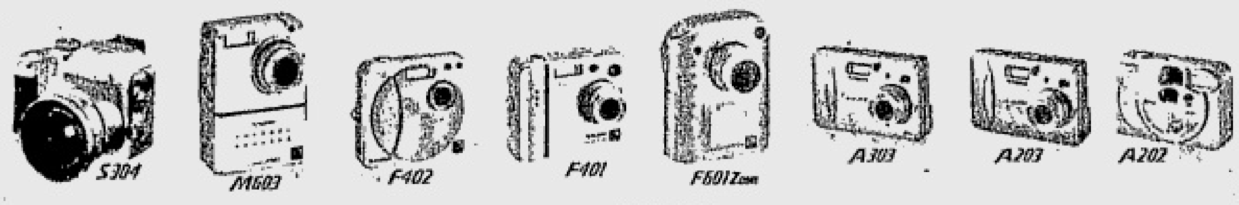

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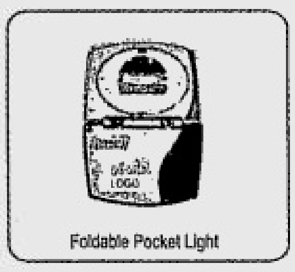
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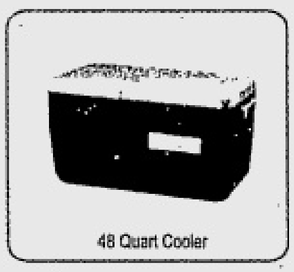
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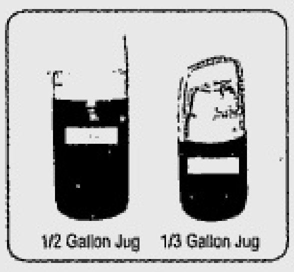
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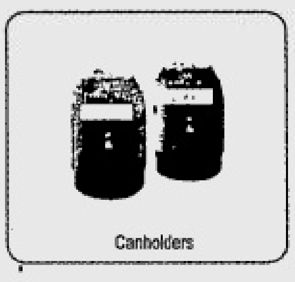
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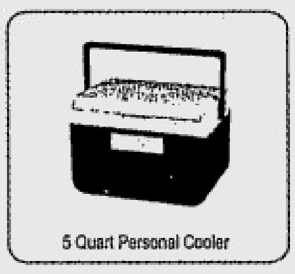
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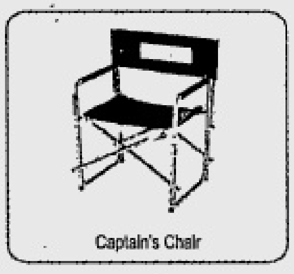
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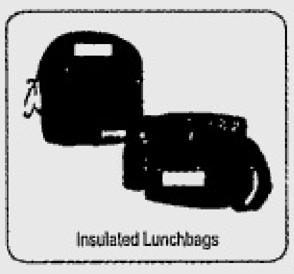
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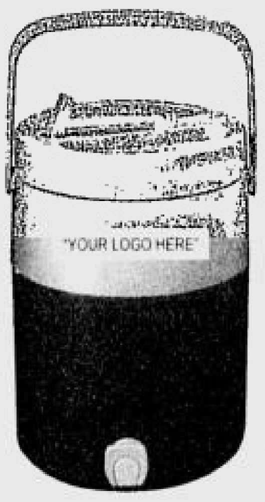

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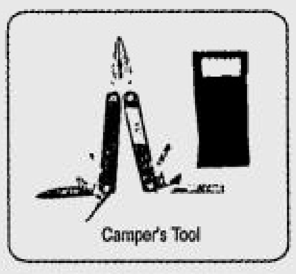
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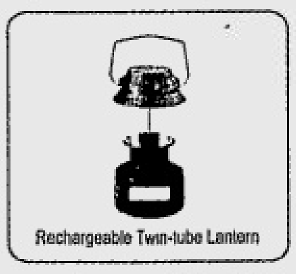
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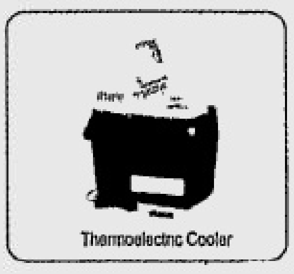
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Explaining Lacson

EDITORIAL

IT was inevitable. Because of the way President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power, her term has become—for both the opposition and the media—a new age of scandal. Is the nation doomed to mere muddling through, enduring sensational charges and counter-charges, at least until next year's elections?

We do not necessarily mean that, under this administration, anomalies have become the order of the day; for anyone but a professional politician or an indifferent media consumer, the post-1986 record set by the Estrada administration remains the one to beat. (As the Senate impeachment records showed, what President Joseph Estrada did almost from the start of his term was to centralize nationwide *jueteng* operations right in Malacañang.)

What we do mean is that, because a tidal wave of public indignation washed over the Palace in January 2001, forcing Estrada out and depositing Ms Macapagal on moral high ground, parts of the washed-out opposition believed their work was cut out for them. All they needed to do, in their estimation, was to erode the high ground on which the new President found herself.

The Jose Pidal accusations raised by opposition front-runner Sen. Panfilo Lacson must be understood in this context. (It is a context defined by such half-baked exposés as the Pacifico Marcelo non-starter.)

In both his privilege speeches (he threatens a third, presumably also long on PowerPoint rhetoric and short on prosecutable evidence), Lacson took aim at the First Gentleman, Jose Miguel Arroyo. But only the naive would think President Macapagal is not the real target.

It is true that Lacson needed to ratchet the pressure on Malacañang as a defensive tactic; his fellow senators are close to reaching a conclusion on the kidnapping and drugs-syndicate charges against him, and in politics a strong offense is always the best defense. But Lacson's charges against Arroyo would have met a less ready reception in the Senate had it not been for the essentially moral phenomenon that placed Ms Macapagal in Malacañang.

In other words, and repugnant as it may be for some to accept, Lacson's exposés are moral time bombs. Whether they are true or not (and on the face of the supporting information he himself provides, the answer is less than straightforward) is only one half (let's call it the substantive part) of his offensive. The other half is procedural.

By going through the motions, by identifying account numbers and pinpointing returned checks, Lacson mimicked the language of evidence. As a closer look into his supporting information has shown, however, some of the details have not panned out. (An attentive public should note that Lacson's privilege speeches are constructed in a journalistic framework. Apparently, the ex-journalists who write for him confuse news criteria with legal standards of evidence.) But—and this is the point—it does not matter. Lacson may lose on the substantive half, but he has made gains on the procedural, image-building part. That part of the explosive device he has laid on the Senate floor is still ticking away, and loudly.

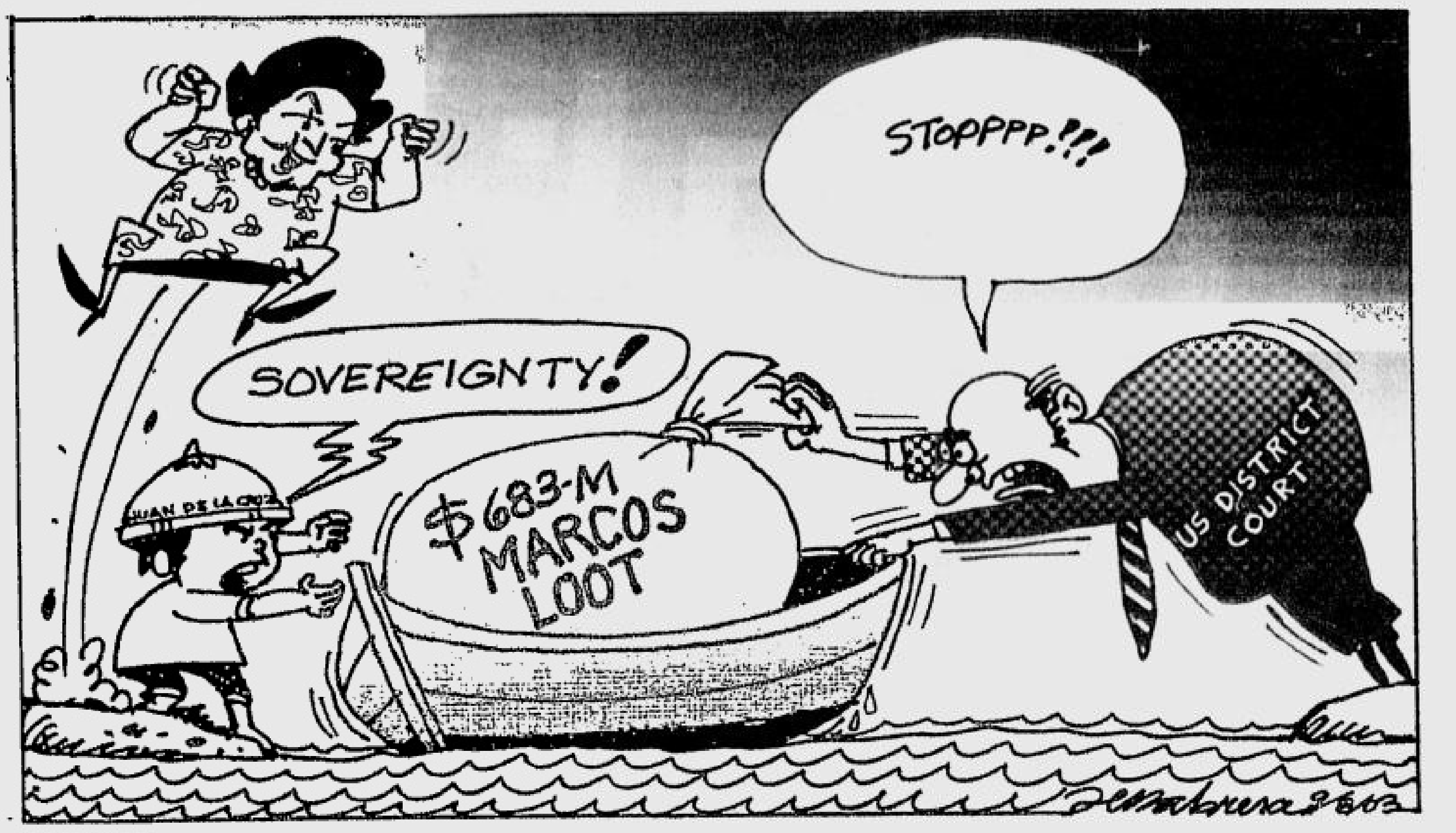
For Lacson, raising the charges is already half the war.

That is why Lacson does not need to be back in the Senate when the upper chamber's blue ribbon committee resumes its hearings today. He's still enough of a policeman to know it is unwise to return to the scene of the crime.

Given the gravity of his allegations, Lacson owes the country some real evidence. Not allegedly lewd photos to titillate the public, not account numbers of non-existent accounts, and certainly not news stories based on the leads he included in his speeches and taken up by obliging news organizations. But to expect Lacson to offer evidence that would stand up in court is to misunderstand the engagement he has elected to fight. From his point of view, it is unnecessary, and unnecessarily risky.

If Lacson will not step up, is the country doomed to a state of political turmoil and perpetual confusion?

Not necessarily. The Senate can show the way by suspending the hearings until Lacson produces the evidence his fellow senators need. In Lacson's strategy, this will not make much of a difference. But at least the Senate will no longer play an unwitting part in the senator's game plan.



A bitter dispute over the bitter gourd

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE is now a bitter fight over drugs, not the shabu or marijuana type, but over an innocent, harmless and delicious-to-eat vegetable called bitter gourd in English and *ampalaya* in Filipino. *Ampalaya* makes a delicious viand sliced thin and sautéed with shrimps, pork and soybean curd, or mixed with fish in *paksiw*. Even its leaves are delicious mixed with mongo beans and pork. The slightly bitter taste of both the fruit and the leaves boosts a flagging appetite for food. I can attest to that. Whenever my grandfather had no appetite, he would gather *ampalaya* leaves from the backyard vegetable garden and would eat them like a salad with dried or fried fish. After just one meal, he would recover his hearty appetite.

But some businessmen are giving the *ampalaya* more credit for minor miracles that it doesn't deserve. Some companies are marketing *ampalaya* capsules and *ampalaya* tea as an antidote to the debilitating disease diabetes mellitus.

Diabetes is an insidious and progressive disease that affects other organs that, in turn, can lead to death. The trouble with diabetes is that it has practically no symptoms in its early stages so that a great majority of diabetics go through life blissfully unaware that they have the disease although it is already ravaging their kidneys, heart and raising their blood pressure. Diabetes is usually discovered in urine and blood analyses during routine physical examinations.

The disease is characterized by the inability of the body to process and use sugar either because it cannot produce enough insulin or it produces enough insulin but the body cannot use it to process sugar. As a result, sugar accumulates in the blood which damages the blood vessels and other bodily organs. Diabetes can lead to kidney failure, high blood pressure and heart disease, frequent skin infections that refuse to heal and may result in gangrene and amputation of the limbs, blindness and, horrors, impotence, a fate worse than death for men.

Symptoms in the later stages are frequent urination, extreme thirst and hunger, itching, fading eyesight, hypertension—symptoms that diabetics usually don't notice because they progress slowly, don't cause pain and do not incapacitate them. Treatments are insulin injections for Type 1 diabetes, or taking capsules or tablets that improve the body's utilization of insulin for Type 2 diabetes. Regular monitoring of the blood sugar and a diet low in sugar are also necessary.

Ampalaya came into the picture because it is being touted to lower blood sugar. Then two previous health secretaries, trying to promote herbal medicine because they are cheap, made the mistake of endorsing *ampalaya* as a "scientifically validated herbal medicinal plant," promoting it from the classification of "folklorically validated herbal medicinal plant." "Scientifically validated" means the drug has been subjected to exhaustive scientific studies and proven to be effective, while "folklorically effective" means the herb is supposed to be effective against certain diseases according to folklore or belief but no scientific studies have been made about them.

Ampalaya is now being marketed in capsule form and as tea in sachets. Some doctors and municipal health officers are endorsing it openly. This marketing ploy must have been very successful because lately, two companies producing *ampalaya* capsules and tea came out with full-page newspaper advertisements and television commercials costing hundreds of thousands of pesos each, touting the efficacy of *ampalaya*. The commercials showing Gary Valenciano, perhaps the most famous Filipino diabetic, and newscaster Mike Enriquez endorsing *ampalaya* capsules, have been running in TV channels.

The trouble is that there has not been any convincing and wide-scale study of the efficacy of *ampalaya* against diabetes. The herbalists claim there is, but it was made on only 27 patients by two doctors. Now that can hardly be called as "scientifically validated." Studies of this nature are conducted on thousands of patients over a number of years before a definitive conclusion can be made. But because of the advertisement and commercials and endorsements by some doctors, many patients substitute *ampalaya* for their regular medication. This is dangerous as the disease can progress more rapidly without the regular medicines.

Alarmed, four associations of endocrinologists, specialists in diabetes, issued statements that *ampalaya* does not cure diabetes nor is there any definitive proof that it lowers blood sugar. Perhaps in reaction to the misleading full-page ads and TV commercials, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit issued a directive reclassifying *ampalaya* back to a "folklorically validated" medicinal plant, and banning the endorsement of *ampalaya* as "an alternative treatment to diabetes."

The herbalists cried "foul" and have mounted a massive public relations campaign attacking both Dayrit and the pharmaceutical companies, claiming that Dayrit's circular is "abuse of authority" and "anti-poor and that the pharmaceuticals are the masterminds of the ban because *ampalaya* is eating up their market share of anti-diabetes drugs."

They also claimed that Dayrit "ignored volumes of scientific studies" on *ampalaya*. Dayrit countered that the only study on *ampalaya* had only 27 subjects and while it showed a decrease in blood sugar, it did not decrease fasting blood glucose.

"Due to sample size limitations... the findings have not been able to establish *ampalaya* as truly beneficial and even as an adjunctive treatment to diabetes. To date, no large clinical trial has yet been published of any type of preparation of *ampalaya*," Dayrit said.

(To be continued)

What democracy?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAVE no love lost for Gregorio Honasan, whom I suspect was the one who most implicated himself in the Oakwood fiasco to revive a dying political career, to which the government willy-nilly played into. It is no small irony that he would fulminate against corruption when all he did during Erap's time was make sure it thrived.

I have no love lost for Panfilo Lacson, whom I suspect is guilty of a variety of crimes. It is a testament only to Victor Corpus' lamentable sleuthing abilities that he could not produce proof for the accusations he hurled.

I have no love lost for the restive military officers, young or old, who think a coup or a military junta is the answer to this country's problems. I have every sympathy for their grievances, I have no sympathy for their solution. Unlike "people power," which is an exercise of sovereign will, a power grab is a cure worse than the disease.

But I did not go to Greenhills last Saturday to defend democracy, as the groups that gathered there claimed to do. And I will not go to any rally mounted by those NGO groups formerly headed by people who are now close to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, however much they shout their heads off that it is for democracy.

Democracy is the last thing they are defending. Tyranny is first.

The instinct that infuses them is anti-democratic in the extreme. At the very least, it must be asked what they are defending democracy from. I have no doubt that the opposition is hard at work trying to find ways to get back to power. I have no doubt that there are groups in the military that are still entertaining the possibility of seizing power.

But if it is the second, then it is no threat at all. Roilo Golez and Joey Lina, who have busily been apprising us of their discovery of terrorists under every bed, have cried wolf far too often. The problem is not whether they can put "destabilizers" under control, the problem is whether they can put their fevered imaginations so. That is where the threat lies.

If it is the first, then it is no threat at all, too. At least not to democracy. To the extent that the opposition seeks a path to power by legal means, it is perfectly within its rights to do so. As are other third parties that will have nothing to do with them or GMA. Even if the opposition wants to mount another "people power"—and I will continue to maintain that that is the hardest thing to do, "people power" leaps into being only when its time has come—what of it? Let them try, if they can. That is a valid protest. They have every right to summon people to rail against Jose Pidal and company at the Edsa Shrine—and I will continue to maintain as well that the Shrine is a public place, in a moral if not legal sense, made holy by the principle, "Vox populi, vox Dei" and not by the inanity, Vox Sini, vox Dei.

The equation is not: Erap (or Lacson or the mutineers) equals tyranny and Gloria equals democracy. Democracy is not who you are, it is what you do. You suppress rights, you are tyrannical, however you once led, or were the gratuitous beneficiary of "people power." True, any effort to stage rallies, or mount another "people power," is destabilizing. But it destabilizes only GMA, not democracy.

Which brings us to the heart of the matter. Joel Pagsanhan, head of the K1230 Movement, said last Saturday's rally was not meant to defend Gloria, it was meant to defend democracy. Ah, but déjà vu, that was what Ed de la Torre said when they mounted a prayer rally in Luneta on the eve of Erap's downfall. It was not to pray of Erap's deliverance, it was to pray for our nation's. Nobody believed him then, nobody believes Pagsanhan now.

But the rally last Saturday was confused not only about what it was trying to defend democracy from, it was confused about what it was trying to defend democracy for. That the NGOs, formerly headed by those who are now close to GMA, would wish to rally at the very point when the GMA government stands accused of the very same thing—corruption of epic proportions—as the former regime it replaced refutes its democratic pretensions altogether. Corruption is not the breeding ground of democracy. Doubly so today. At least Erap was elected, by the biggest number of votes gotten by a Filipino president, GMA is not. GMA is the product of Edsa, tasked to obey the commandment of being pure as driven snow. Being Mrs. Pidal does not do that.

Far more than this, what in God's name has civil society come to? I can only hope other leaders of civil society mount rallies that will fulminate against both GMA and Lacson. Those are the rallies I will go to.

The time to have held rallies in defense of democracy was not last Saturday, it was several months ago, as I had been cajoling the NGOs to do. Specifically during the Iraq war. That was when democracy in this country was most threatened—and did in fact perish in the flames, along with Saddam Hussein. That was when this country surrendered its democracy to the rule of demagogues, embracing a war that had no UN sanction and unleashing a war of our own in Mindanao against manufactured terrorists. That was when the country surrendered its democracy to the rule of militarists, agreeing to give up its civil rights for national security and pursuing the ways of war rather than of peace.

That was what brought back the season of coups to begin with, from which GMA's men and women now want to defend democracy, thrusting the military back to the head of the national table. That was what made for leaden feet when the same NGO leaders who called for last Saturday's rally called for a show of unity at the Edsa Shrine. Defend democracy?

What democracy?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Suspend the hearings

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SECOND joint hearing on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is due to open this morning amid growing clamor from citizens as well as some senators to suspend the hearings, now that the accusing senator has gone abroad reportedly to look for evidence. Administration Sen. Francis Pangilinan opines that with Lacson's continued failure to present evidence, he is "hostaging" the Senate, which is unfair to the senators as well as the nation. Lacson is said to have gone to Australia, but he is believed to have gone instead to the United States to get more evidence as well as to firm up his interests there in the light of Blanquita Pelaez's recent allegations about his bank accounts and hidden wealth in the United States.

* * *

With Lacson abroad, even his opposition colleague Aquilino Pimentel now says he should not expect the opposition to take up the cudgels for him. Pimentel also asserts that if he is unable to prove his case, he could face expulsion from the chamber. From the start, Senate President Franklin Drilon had stressed that the Senate would be happy to examine even just the original of the bank check Lacson showed in his first exposé, as this would enable the committees to verify who cashed it. What Drilon seems to be saying is, we don't have to be overwhelmed by tons of evidence; just give us the original shown in his powerpoint presentation (made by Greg Garcia of Hemisphere advertising firm), so that we could verify them. But Lacson has ignored this demand and instead flew abroad perhaps for more "trawl fishing."

* * *

The clamor not only to suspend the hearings but to scrap them altogether is especially loud from the business community, which has also expressed worry over the repercussions on the banking system of his display of purported bank documents in a "strip-tease" manner: now you see it, now you don't. Businessmen are worried about the invasion of their bank secrets, which the Banking Secrecy Law seeks to protect. In this aspect businessmen the world over are the same---they all have secrets to protect. But then, most senators have secrets, too.

* * *

If the political opposition is having problems with this law, it's interesting to note that it was they who had insisted on protecting bank deposits from the prying eyes of the Anti-Money Laundering Council, reportedly because they wanted to protect former President Estrada's hidden wealth. During deliberations earlier this year on amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act, nine opposition senators, including Lacson, succeeded in convincing Sen. Joker Arroyo to sponsor the amendment that now makes it imperative for the AMLC to get a court order first before it can open bank deposits. Two other administration senators, Manuel Villar and Loren Legarda, joined Arroyo and nine opposition senators in batting for a court order, against eight administration senators who wanted to entrust that task directly to the AMLC.

* * *

This should be an object lesson for Congress: elementary justice dictates that it should never allow hearings to open without firm evidence, as otherwise these would degenerate into character assassination and a witch hunt where innocent people are mercilessly subjected to inquisition. And certainly, the burden of delivering proof is not on the chamber, as Sen. Edgardo Angara insists, but on the accuser. Unfortunately, the opposition was too eager to destroy its real target, the President, even without solid evidence. To Senator Arroyo, we say, suspend those hearings and let the nation go on with its life.

* * *

The theme of the recently concluded Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) was "A Hundred Years of Peace in Asia," and this could very well be ours too, as we Filipinos long for political and military peace in this country. In fact, we could very well plead for even just a year of peace in order to get us smoothly through the 2004 elections and final negotiations between the government and the MILF. But it's sad that certain groups appear bent on not allowing the country that much time, and seem out to destabilize it through fair and foul means.

* * *

But even with the peace in our region and country still an unrealized yearning, the AAPP drew to a close high on plans and projects, a number of which were inspired by the host chamber, the House of Representatives led by Speaker Jose de Venecia. These represent additional laurels for the House. The AAPP's Manila Declaration signed by 38 national parliaments from Asia and the Pacific approved four Manila initiatives: the formation of an Asian Parliament modeled after the European Parliament; setting up of an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund as a practical way of alleviating the grinding poverty in most of Asia; a cooperative agreement between Southeast Asia's anti-terrorist alliance (Thailand, Indonesia and RP) with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization led by China and Russia; and the sponsorship by many Asian parliaments of the Interfaith Council proposed by De Venecia as a vehicle to conduct the much-needed dialogue of civilizations and cultures in the UN.

* * *

In support of these initiatives, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho will present the Anti-Poverty Fund in the World Bank-IMF conference in Dubai at the end of this month, and the RP delegation is expected to sponsor the Interfaith Council at the UN in cooperation with other AAPP members. Then too, JDV will present the idea of an Asian Parliament at the current Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization meet in Jakarta this morning. But very significant for RP's ideological tussle with the MILF, AAPP delegates, including those from Islamic countries such as Bangladesh, have agreed to sponsor the government as observer in the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Remember Huluga

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

THE ISSUE refuses to die. Not even with Oakwood and Jose Pidal. Not even after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Region 10 ruled against the Cagayan de Oro city government with a Cease and Desist Order to stop the illegal destruction of the Huluga heritage site. The diversion road and bridge project of city mayor Vicente Y. Emano rams right through the middle of an archaeological site that to this day continues to yield precious artifacts of Philippine prehistory.

The issue refuses to die because of Emano's intransigence. He has ordered his lawyers not to concede, no matter if that were the only logical and legal recourse. One of his two lawyers privately confided to us that Emano ordered them to file a motion for reconsideration denying the site had been damaged, thereby contesting the DENR decision.

The damage is there for the whole world to see, recorded on film and television cameras. The motion of Emano's lawyers is certainly the latest version of "The Emperor's New Clothes," with all the emperor's sycophants singing "see, no damage" hosannas.

One such sycophant brought along last Sept. 1 Fr. Joesilo Amalia of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Committee on Monuments and Sites, hoping that Amalia would issue a favorable media statement. Before leaving, Amalia met with the Heritage Conservation Advocates and got to see the real picture. He disclosed that he was not made to see the damaged portion of the site.

By Thursday, Sept. 4, Amalia had reported his findings during a meeting of the NCCA committee in Manila. The committee's verdict: the road project should be re-routed; there is a breach of the assurance that the site would be spared from the project's path.

Pity the frustrated sycophant. Both the National Museum's Corazon Alvina and the UP Archaeological Studies Program's Dr. Victor Paz have sent letters to Emano, affirming that the road project had indeed damaged a portion of the Huluga Open Site. Emano refuses to face the problem squarely, that is, admit his wrongdoing and comply with what the law now requires of him.

Huluga has drawn all sorts of visitors, from students to teachers, tourists and media people. What makes Huluga doubly valuable is the on-the-spot education it provides. The artifacts are just on topsoil for the picking. It is a virtual field laboratory. Thanks to Emano and his denial team, the science of archaeology has suddenly been resurrected from the esoteric to the realistic.

Since June, Huluga has been visited in succession by some of Manila's famous. Eliza Romualdez Valtos, the former television news anchor now completing her masters in archaeology at UP, brought some artifacts to the National Museum for analysis. A week after, Presidential Assistant Tingting Cojuangco, in town for the staging of the Filipino ethnic fantasy drama "Ibong Adarna," dropped by Huluga and found herself scooping up potsherds with her bare hands. Unknown to many, the famous lady is an anthropologist, about to complete her doctorate in the field.

Other notables have joined in the chorus of protests. Tourism's Richard Gordon has issued a statement calling for the site's preservation and enjoining the people of Cagayan de Oro to "fight for their heritage." Then last Aug. 5, Sen. Loren Legarda filed Senate Resolution 656, directing a Senate inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the destruction of the site.

Emano probably thinks that by repeating his denials over sycophant radio stations, the damage will simply vanish like a phantom. But ghosts haunt. Just this past week, two statements of solidarity were issued from two of the three universities in Cagayan de Oro, calling for the preservation of the heritage site: one came from the student leaders of Xavier University (whose administration has been unusually speechless on the issue); the other, from the social science faculty of the recently minted Capitol University, whose Executive Vice President, Dr. Fe Rosales Juarez, has personally visited the site.

The lady of the land herself, President Macapagal-Arroyo has sent Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo, the Cabinet officer for Region 10, to look into the controversy. GMA can direct the compliance of DENR's Aug. 15 order, coordinate with the National Museum (which is under the Office of the President) and release funds for the "rescue" of Huluga's archaeological heritage that the National Museum has recommended. But the day is late for a win-win solution. Damage had been done. There can only be a lose-win solution. Yes, this is about the rule of law. This is about the Strong Republic. Once Emano completes his compliance, the project can proceed for all it can do to the Strong Republic's Nautical Highway.

For Huluga is a test case for all onion-skinned local government officials who believe their every word is sacrosanct. As we write, Butuan City has decided to heed the call of local historians for a rerouting of the new Butuan diversion road to spare the Bonbon Shell Midden, a newly discovered prehistoric site in Butuan City, from destruction. There's a win-win solution.

Emano and his denial team can build a thousand roads and bridges, but they cannot restore a heritage site. They can hire a hundred thousand flying voters this coming elections, but the people of Cagayan de Oro will always remember their lost heritage site. They will always remember who ordered Huluga destroyed.

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

COUP D'ETAT is any attempt to gain state power by means not specified in the Constitution as part of our "democratic system"—which Corazon Aquino called on the Filipino last Saturday to protect and defend. As a general rule, only free elections should decide who becomes president and wields state power and authority in a representative democracy like ours. Except for the succession when a president dies, is permanently disabled, resigns or is convicted after impeachment, all other "regime changes" are outside the democratic system.

Realpolitik dictates that if a coup attempt fails, it will be called other things like mutiny, treason, tantrum, incident, putsch or power grab. But even if they were being used by Gringo, the young officers at Oakwood served a useful purpose by speeding up reform programs in the military that can only cleanse, strengthen and professionalize it. The resignations of Angelo Reyes (to save the military from politics and as karma for self-admitted mutiny in Edsa II) and Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus (for a general failure of strategic intelligence against terrorists and communists that has cost the lives of soldiers and civilians) surely also count as moral victories, up to a point.

(Now if an embarrassing scandal suddenly erupts around the First Gentleman, one can temporarily distract the media and the people with tales of coup plotters and Erap loyalists consorting with communists, separatists, rumormongers, military dictator wannabes, sinkers of the economy and bank robbers! But they want to set up a military junta by launching a destabilizing text message attack on democracy? Puhleez!)

On the other hand, if a coup attempt succeeds, it gets to be called a "revolution"—a more respectable term. And if a coup attempt succeeds because the Church (Jaime Cardinal Sin), the military (Angelo Reyes), civil society (Makati Business Club) and the Supreme Court (Hilario G. Davide, Jr.) participate in it with a large crowd (you and me), it gets to be called a "people power revolution"—an even more respectable term for coup d'etat. This usually comes with a flat iron lady of idolatry as a permanent backdrop for official regime photography and expensive coffee-table books. But not to tell the story of that boulevard of broken dreams called Edsa.

Two out of the last four tenants of Malacañang Palace—Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—got there at the head of two such successful "people power revolutions"—Edsa I and Edsa II.

But there is a big difference. Edsa I has hurdled the test of a democratic election that could have reversed it—the plebiscite that ratified the revolutionary Freedom Constitution of 1987 (warts and all), and restored the pre-Marcos democracy (the old oligarchy and a nouveau component in polyester tweeds). All of Gringo's military adventures in the '80s failed—because the people had had enough of dictatorship. Edsa I means that never again shall dictatorship usurp the people's sovereignty.

But Edsa II still faces the people's judgment in 2004. Erap was corrupt, but he was not a dictator, or an overt danger to the democratic system. At Edsa II, the Constitution was sacrificed by powerful people in order to get rid of him. It was not about democracy or morality in governance. The simple hope of the people for good, competent government was based on Edsa II's promise that never again would the presidency be the seat of plunder and massive graft and corruption. That is why the people acquiesced in what was, luckily, the bloodless, successful coup d'etat at Edsa II. But has that hope been dashed and that promise broken?

Consternation is growing among the President's political handlers as she continues to play the politics of coy. If Gloria overplays the protect democracy hand in order to draw attention away from the Jose Pidal scandal, she could win a battle for Mike Arroyo, but lose the war for Gloria II. Ping Lacson shrewdly uses the same tactics against Mike Arroyo as Edsa II forces used against Erap Estrada, from the Senate speeches alleging wrongdoing through the details of fake identities, signatures and bank accounts, mistresses, witnesses, corrupt friends and relatives, money laundering. More grief's to come (Nani Perez and Impsa, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Piatco, NFA, etc). Ping is telling the people that this administration is morally no better than the last. They are listening.

Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. And we the goslings, we the public, insist that all the foul fowl fry in the merciless klieg lights of punishing public inquiry. Now that the shoe is on the other foot, feet of clay, incredibly green, can be seen on the gods of Edsa II. Ping himself is Chavit Singson, Joker Arroyo and GMA all rolled into one mean candidate for president. He has decided not to wait for the champion to even enter the race, before he throws down the gauntlet for a contest in the court of the people's sovereignty. He is forcing the moralists of Edsa II to swallow some of their own medicine, to look in the mirror of their own graft and corruption. He could win if the defenders of Edsa II aren't careful.

Free, periodic elections are really the autonomic heart and merciless genius of democracy. They embody and enforce the brilliant idea that no one stands above the law—and that everything is accountable to the people, eventually. Vox populi, vox Dei! (*Visit my personal web log at www.deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/*)

Depressing news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

BY TRADITION, September is the month that many Filipinos consider as the starting point of the countdown to Christmas Day. This early, some radio and TV stations are already airing Christmas songs.

But with the many unpleasant things happening around us today, there seems to be little reason to look forward to the happiest season of the year. For the past two months or so, bad news have dominated the country's print and broadcast media.

After Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped from Camp Crame, renegade soldiers took over the Oakwood building. Then came the hearings of the Feliciano Commission and the two chambers of Congress on mutiny. Sen. Gregorio Honasan went into hiding to escape possible arrest warrant.

The political uncertainty caused the peso-dollar exchange rate to plunge to unprecedented lows. The prices of gasoline and other related products went up. Hardly had the ten abated, Sen. Panfilo Lacson accused First Gentlemen Mike Arroyo of money laundering. Defense Secretary Angelo Re suddenly quit his post. Rumors about destabilization by certain military and political elements continue to spread.

Enough of the depressing news! That's the message from many INQUIRER readers. They expressed disappointment (one used the word "disgusted") with the way the newspaper has been reporting on these events.

The e-mail of Meinard Cruz (from <phil_hrd hoo.com>) is representative of the concerns raised by readers. I chose it because it was the most sober. The other were too emotional or impassioned for comfort.

Bad influence

He wrote: "Today, I am very much alarmed with the contents of your front page. I believe the rise and fall of economy largely depend on news reports. Although don't make the news and just report them, I believe you educating us and feeding our thoughts on what to think the whole day. If we read bad news, we feel bad; if we read good news, we feel good.

"I see good news inside and all the Bad News crying loud outside. Is this because readers cry for blood? Th makes us feel that ours is a rotten country. *Lahat ng nangyari masama* (Everything that's happening is wrong) deed, you are very successful in using headlines. They ca our attention and they linger in our thoughts that this 'bad country' after all.

"Stop politicking is what we urge our politicians. Stop ing their LOUDSPEAKERS and MEGAPHONES, we urge Let the halls of the Senate hear their views, spare us and them on the last page.

"We should be responsible for our children who will come our future. Let TV and newspaper show good deeds not bad ones. Let us be the change we want in this world!"

After reading the letter, the managing editor conced that lately the front pages of the INQUIRER had been reporting negative news. "But," he explained, "that cannot be helped because that's how things are going on in the country; don't make the news, we merely report the events as they happen." In other words, the messenger should not blamed for being the bearer of bad news.

He was quick to add that the newspaper tries to report least one positive or "feel good" news a day on the front page to somehow soften the effects of negative news. And on Sundays, the newspaper edition is a virtual tribute to the unseen or unread good side of the Filipinos.

Predicament

I share the readers' observation about the apparent predominance of negative news on the front page of the newspaper. Nothing seems to be going right in our country. Name a man-made or natural calamity and, most probably, we experienced it. There is little consolation in the thought that other parts of the world are in worse condition.

In the same breath, however, I understand the dilemma that the editors go through whenever they sit down to discuss the stories that will see print in the next day's edition. Who does not want to write news that make others happy feel good about the people around them? If the editors have their way, they would prefer to publish stories about—to borrow the words of former first lady Imelda Marcos—the "good and the beautiful."

But the problem is, the INQUIRER was not organized to serve as a propaganda arm of the government or any vested interest. Its principal mission is to inform the public of the day events, regardless of who gets hurt in the process. Negative but significant, news cannot and should not be ignored.

The newspaper will lose its credibility (and with it the patronage of its readers) if it turns a blind eye on the corruption, social exploitation, crimes and other evils that ha sprouted in our society during these past years. With rad and TV also providing the news, the readers have a way knowing if the INQUIRER is living up to its commitment make a timely, truthful and objective reporting of the news

Straight news

Can the INQUIRER report the events as they happen witho unnecessarily adding to the unease and tension that negative news often bring about? Or, to paraphrase a reader's earlier question to me, cannot the newspaper tell the news without ruining the reader's day? I think it can.

The readers want their news straight and clean. They can see through slants or biases in the news and wouldn't like them. If a news story is "editorialized" or made to appear different from what it really is, they feel cheated. If headlines are made to "scream" to catch their attention, they get insu ed. The reaction is stronger if the accompanying story has little or no bearing at all to the headline.

A newspaper does not lose its independence if it is judicious in the choice of the people whose comments on certain issues are made to form part of the news. Just because a political personality gives an earthshaking or intriguing rem is no excuse for a newspaper to immediately publish it a in the process, give it a semblance of credibility.

Neither does a newspaper abdicate its role in a free soci if it uses its reach and influence to calm the public's anx by giving accurate information and not allow itself to used by elements who want to take advantage of the situation to serve their selfish interests.

Noblesse oblige. Much has been given to the INQUIRER much is expected of it.

* *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Stree Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Models in public service

EVERYBODY is talking about apathy and rampant corruption in most, if not all, government offices these days—from national to local government levels.

However, I wish to point out that corruption among officials and employees of the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or Pag-IBIG Fund, specifically in the regional office in Legazpi City, is unheard of.

For the past 10 years or so, I've been dealing with this Pag-IBIG regional office, regarding the publication of foreclosure of delinquent real estate mortgage in local newspapers. The delinquencies usually involve millions of pesos.

In not a single instance have Pag-IBIG officials or employees asked for some financial consideration for the transactions. I doff my hat to them for their dedication to service despite the temptation.

I learned that the Pag-IBIG was strict in the recruitment of its employees. And only those who can render the service required of true and dedicated public servants are taken in. Truly, Pag-IBIG employees in our region are models of what true government employees should be.

If Pag-IBIG officials and employees can give the kind of service required in government offices without the stigma of corruption, then why can't officials and employees in other government offices do the same?

This is not a tall order to follow. By their own transparent action there's no need for a lifestyle check on Pag-IBIG employees.

—MARK E. PARAS JR.,
publisher and editor,
Sorsogon Today, Sorsogon City

Senate must abrogate GATT treaty

THE PHILIPPINE Senate must abrogate the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) it ratified in December 1994, paving the way to the Philippines' membership in the World Trade Organization. The Senate is politically obligated to scrap this shotgun piece of treaty as the collective national interest and sentiment so dictate.

Our nine-year-old membership to the WTO has been a national disaster of gigantic proportions. It is characterized by mass flooding of agricultural, consumer and industrial products from the imperialist camp, turning the Philippines into one of Asia biggest dumps of surplus products to the detriment of our small farmers, rural producers and workers.

The Macapagal administration has dismissed the calls of the affected sectors to get the country out of the WTO, which is a global trading syndicate headed by the United States and the European Union. The government would rather pursue the line of renegotiation in the 5th WTO Ministerial Meeting set to be held in Cancun, Mexico this month.

There's no political and moral basis for the Philippine government to continue its membership in the world trade body. There has been no boost in annual income. The projected yearly gain of P3.4 billion and 500,000 jobs in local agriculture are just empty lines in Malacañang's praise releases.

Contrary to the projections of free trade apologists, in 2000 and 2001 alone, around 1.3 million farmers and local producers have been affected by the onslaught of free trade and anarchic importation. Local agriculture registered a deficit of US$5.2 billion from 1995 to 2000.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Foreign Secretary Blas Ople should be held responsible for endorsing GATT and leading the pro-WTO fight at the Senate in 1994. These two officials are now trying to wash their hands to escape national verdict and historical condemnation.

—RAFAEL MARIANO,
national president, Anakpawis,
183-C Scout Fuentabella,
Kamuning, Quezon City

Lacson and J. Edgar Hoover

THE ONLY upside to the so-called exposé of Sen. Panfilo Lacson against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is that he has given the public a glimpse of his leadership style should we elect him as president.

Motivation by intimidation.

Obviously he gets his inspiration from the notorious J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who reportedly spied on various people—political, media and entertainment personalities—and kept thick dossiers (inclusive of financial and sexual transactions), which he used to silence critics, collect favors or extort money and support.

I would be interested to know: (1) if public funds were used to conduct his surveillance operations, (2) who else were subjected to this exercise (the timidity of the majority of the senators to endorse the release of the committee report on the Kuratong Baleleng case may have something to do with the answer to Question No. 2).

It would be a tragic mistake if this character ever gets to Malacañang.

—ED DAMES,
BSA Mansion, 108 Benavidez St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Status of Alabang viaduct repair

THIS is with regard to the news report last Aug. 27, 2003 entitled, "Impatience mounts over viaduct repair" as reported by Alcuin Papa. Please allow us to respond to some of the points raised in the said news item.

It is not true that we have not lifted a finger regarding the repair and rehabilitation of the Alabang viaduct. In fact, we are in the thick of activities, together with other agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways, the National Development Corp., the Toll Regulatory Board, the Metro Manila Development Authority, and other concerned agencies, on how to start and get on with the structure's refurbishment and reinforcement.

Talks with the above-mentioned agencies were started in December 2002, but we really need to iron out several concerns—the financial to the technical and, most importantly, the traffic management scheme.

Just because there is still no activity seen right at the viaduct does not mean we are sleeping on the job. We wanted to be meticulous and transparent in our transactions which in the end would provide absolute benefit and advantage to our motoring public.

For the information of our readers, particularly the users of the South Luzon Tollway, we still have to finalize the loan we are requesting from the NDC for the project's undertaking. Contrary to the news report, it will not be the DPWH but the NDC which will provide us with the funding for this project. In turn, we are talking with the TRB on how to recoup this financial assistance in the form of toll adjustment.

Also with the DPWH, we are trying to determine the best design and methodology that could be used for the construction and refurbishment of the said structure. We wanted to guarantee our tollway users of the structure's safety once it shall have been rehabilitated.

We have likewise been coordinating with the local government of Muntinlupa, Filinvest Alabang Inc., the utility companies, the PNP and the MMDA on possible alternate routes to ensure continued travel convenience for our tollway users when construction begins.

We are targeting October 2003 for the start of the construction, but the way things are going, we need some more time to resolve and clear up all the important concerns, an additional 120 days from today before "actual work" begins.

In the meantime, we will continue to strictly implement our weight limit of only 20 tons and below on the use of the Alabang viaduct. This is for the safety of all concerned.

—WILFREDO P. CU,
Philippine National Construction
Corp., Edsa corner Reliance
Street, Mandaluyong City

Heroes are not legislated

REGARDING the article, "Ninoy soon to join list of national heroes" (PDI, 8/21/03), I understand Sen. Aquilino Pimentel has filed Senate Bill 2356, making former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino a national hero and setting Aug. 21 of every year, the anniversary of his martyrdom, a national holiday in honor of the "gentleman from Tarlac."

I fully remember a similar bill filed some 15 years ago. That bill triggered a heated debate and the sentiment that prevailed at that time (and I think up to this time) was/is: the making of national heroes cannot be legislated because they are made in the hearts and minds of the people.

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
MBLA Court, Malanday,
Marikina City 1805

HLURB clarification on subdivision licenses

THIS has reference to a letter last Aug. 29 titled, "HLURB should be on the side of buyers." In the letter of Butch Junia, certain statements are attributed to me in an alleged published report on the problems of the real estate industry.

My reactions to the letter:

1. I have not seen and do not know what this alleged report on the problems of the real estate industry is. Thus, I cannot make more in-depth comments about it.

2. The only instance I recall where I talked about the grounds and procedure for suspension of licenses of subdivision projects was in a recent media interview. However, I deny making any statement that "the rules are meant to protect both developers and buyers." I am aware that PD 957 is a buyers' protection decree, meaning that its provisions should be interpreted in favor of buyers.

However, I mentioned that before the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) can suspend any license, we have to observe certain rules of due process and give the developers a chance to present and explain their side. I may have been misquoted or taken out of context.

3. Similarly, I believe I was misquoted or taken out of context with respect to my alleged statement that "just as there are unscrupulous developers, there are also unscrupulous buyers." What I said was that a license to sell cannot be immediately suspended simply because of the mere filing or pendency of any complaint, because each complaint must first be evaluated and decided on the merits of the controversy.

I also mentioned that the problems of the real estate industry are not only due to the acts of unscrupulous developers. Elaborating, I said that based on our experience, some complainants are not totally blameless and are not totally acting in good faith, as even after they have been in possession of the property for some time, they file complaints alleging house construction defects just when their contracts are about to be cancelled, or when their amortizations are about to be forfeited or when their mortgages are about to be foreclosed due to delinquency or non-payment of arrears.

From this, the interviewer may have concluded or drawn an inference from my statements that there are also unscrupulous buyers.

4. Finally, based on our track record and experience, in almost all cases we have resolved, 99 percent favored complaining lot buyers. Thus, the allegation in the letter that I, or the rest of the board do not know our jobs is unfounded, baseless, unnecessary, unfair and uncalled for.

—FRANCISCO L. DAGNALAN,
commissioner, Housing and Land Use
Regulatory Board, HLURB Bldg.,
Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street,
Diliman, Quezon City

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

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Live bombs keep clash site 'no-man's land'

PIKIT, North Cotabato—Remnants of the government's war on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in February remain the most serious threat to civilian lives in the Buliok Complex and these could hamper rehabilitation efforts in the erstwhile conflict areas, according to a group that studied rehabilitation efforts in the area.

The Initiative for International Dialogues (IID), which also documented post-conflict events in East Timor, said in its report that several rebel landmines and unexploded 105 mm howitzer shells, probably fired from military artillery, and aerial bombs, were continuing to threaten the safety of returning villagers, including those living in government core shelter sites.

The IID's report was the result of a mission dubbed Bantay Ceasefire Investigative Mission (BCIM), which it conducted with other non-government organizations, from July 13-15. It was released only recently.

Incident

The report cited as example two incidents, in which two evacuees—Budsal Sambilang and Nardo Maulana—were injured when they accidentally stepped on a booby trap in Sitio Butilen, Barangay Kabasalan here.

Also in June, a 105 mm howitzer shell accidentally exploded near burning dried grass and injured a farmer, Tatuan Mamadra.

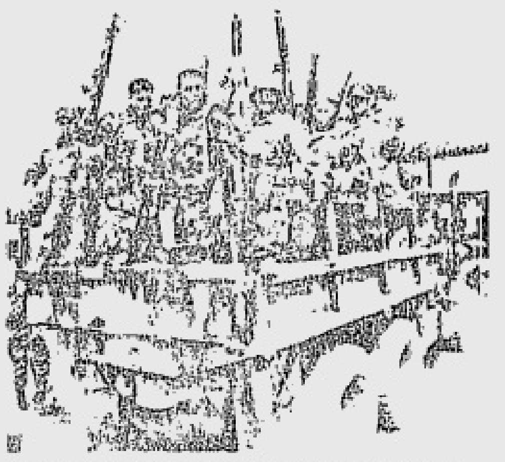
The report said the area had not been fully turned over to civilians as soldiers continue to camp in the area.

Mary Ann Arnado, a peace volunteer, said the soldiers' presence could be seen as a form of security for civilians or a risk for civilians getting caught in the crossfire in cases of raids on military targets.

In Cotabato City, Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff and head of the government ceasefire panel, said on Thursday he would check on the group's report including allegations that the Buliok Complex mosque has not been "substantially turned over to the residents" as it was still in the perimeter of the Marine's Camp Obrero.

Garcia said he would also look into the report that certain civil rights, including freedom of worship, have been violated by security measures that required civilians to log their entry and exit at the Buliok Complex mosque.

"Certainly, if that (report) is true, that's a violation of the Constitution," he told the INQUIRER.



GOVERNMENT soldiers prepare to put to test the lessons they learned from an antiterrorism course given by US experts and will most likely apply these lessons in combat with Moro guerrillas. EPA

On the problem of defusing landmines and unexploded bombs, the military and the MILF said they supported clearing operations.

Fr. Roberto Layson, Pikit parish priest, said the joint government and MILF committees on the cessation of hostilities could put to task their people in the field to jointly participate in rehabilitation efforts, including clearing operations.

Garcia, meanwhile, said government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) negotiators on Thursday agreed to continue upholding the truce and also signed another agreement that strengthens cooperation against criminality and terrorism.

"Clearly, this shows that we are heading toward a better environment ahead of the formal peace negotiations in Kuala Lumpur," he said.

Garcia said the new agreement would reinforce the government and the MILF's resolve to work for peace in Mindanao.

Since June, no major skirmish between soldiers and Moro rebels were reported in Mindanao.

Benjie Midtimbang, head of the MILF's committee on truce, said only a complete silencing of guns from both sides could spell peace in Mindanao.

No reason to fight

"There's no reason to fight anymore, we have agreed for a total stop to clashes, our peace panels will formalize what we have agreed here," he said after Thursday's meeting of the joint Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) at the Estosan Hotel in Cotabato City.

Garcia said that the CCCH also agreed to fully implement the May 6, 2002 Tripoli joint declaration, where the government and the MILF pledged to work together against criminals and terror groups in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita said government and MILF representatives started a fresh round of exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur.

"This is to jump start (sic) peace talks suspended after war broke out in February this year," Ermita, also chief government negotiator, said.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said during the Kuala Lumpur exploratory talks, government and rebel representatives would assess the developments on the ground "as well as the implementation of previous agreements."

Murad Ebrahim, MILF chair and chief negotiator, said among the issues to be discussed in the exploratory talks would be the status of government forces in the Buliok Complex in Pikit, North Cotabato. *Nash Maulana, Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ARMM exports reach ₱3B amid MILF, gov't clashes

COTABATO CITY—Amid frequent fighting between the military and Moro rebels, export companies in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) were still doing brisk business.

Figures from the region's Board of Investments (BOI) revealed that from 2000 to the first semester of this year, exporters have recorded accumulated revenues of P3.5 billion.

It was in 2000 when most businesses slumped in the region because of the Estrada administration's all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Altab Tulawie, chief of the ARMM-BOI, said garments manufacturer Mindanao Textile Corp. (Mintex) based in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao posted the highest income followed by banana exporter La Frutera of Datu Paglas town, also in Maguindanao.

Tulawie said Mintex, which is 31 percent Filipino-owned, earned some P1.6 billion for the past three and a half years. *Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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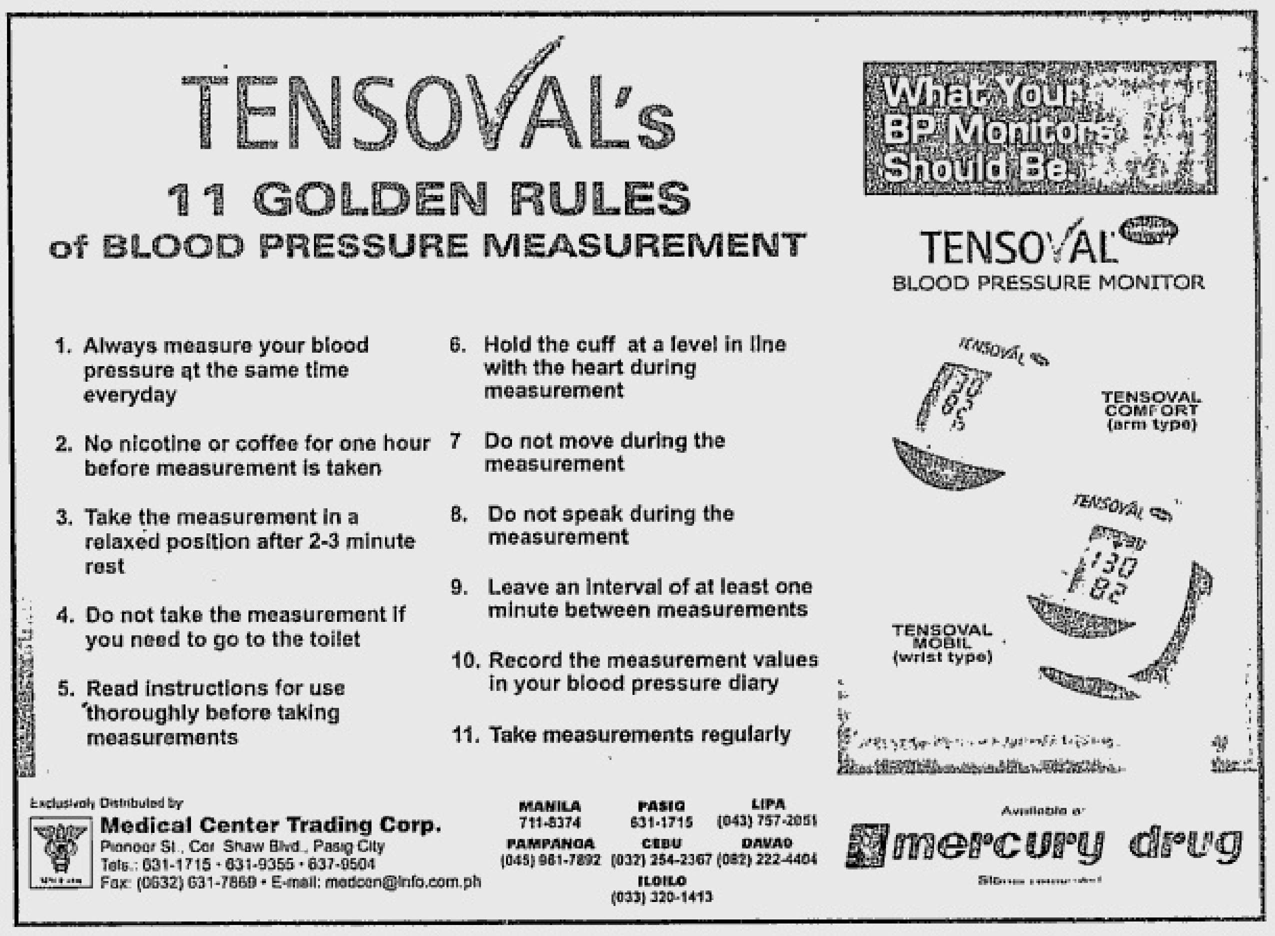

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/
APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested Contractors registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Category AAA and classified by the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) as Large A in General Engineering for Port, Harbor and Offshore Engineering and Large A in General Building for Building and Industrial Plant with experience handling projects "similar" in nature and complexity to this project ("similar" means scope of the work of the project are almost same), to apply for prequalification/eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the project.

Construction of ATN/MAR Support Base and Supply of Office Furnitures and Equipment – Phase I at Punta Engaño, Mactan, Cebu.

The scope of work includes, but not limited to, the construction of ATN/MAR Support Base which comprises a one storey Administration Bldg., construction of wharf, construction of more or less 2.7 km road network, dredging of a 150m x 120m protected harbor, reclamation of a 3.5 ha area, supply/delivery of an oily water separator system complete with accessories and supply of office furnitures and equipment. The whole works shall be completed within 270 c.d

The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P163,621,925.

The Prequalification/Eligibility Documents may be obtained upon presentation of a valid PCAB License starting September 8, 2003 until September 9, 2003 Mondays through Fridays from 8.00 AM to 5.00 PM at the following address:

THE CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee
Philippine Coast Guard – Project Management Office – MSIP-C
3rd Floor Columbia Towers
Brgy. Wack Wack, Ortigas Ave., 1555 Mandaluyong City

The Prequalification/Eligibility Documents must be submitted to the above address in one (1) original and three (3) copies not later than 10.00 AM of October 3, 2003 upon which the opening of the documents shall follow.

Prospective Bidders will be advised of the result of their submissions. Only qualified Bidders will be invited to purchase Bid Documents which will be made available on October 21-28, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ₱15,000.00 per set.

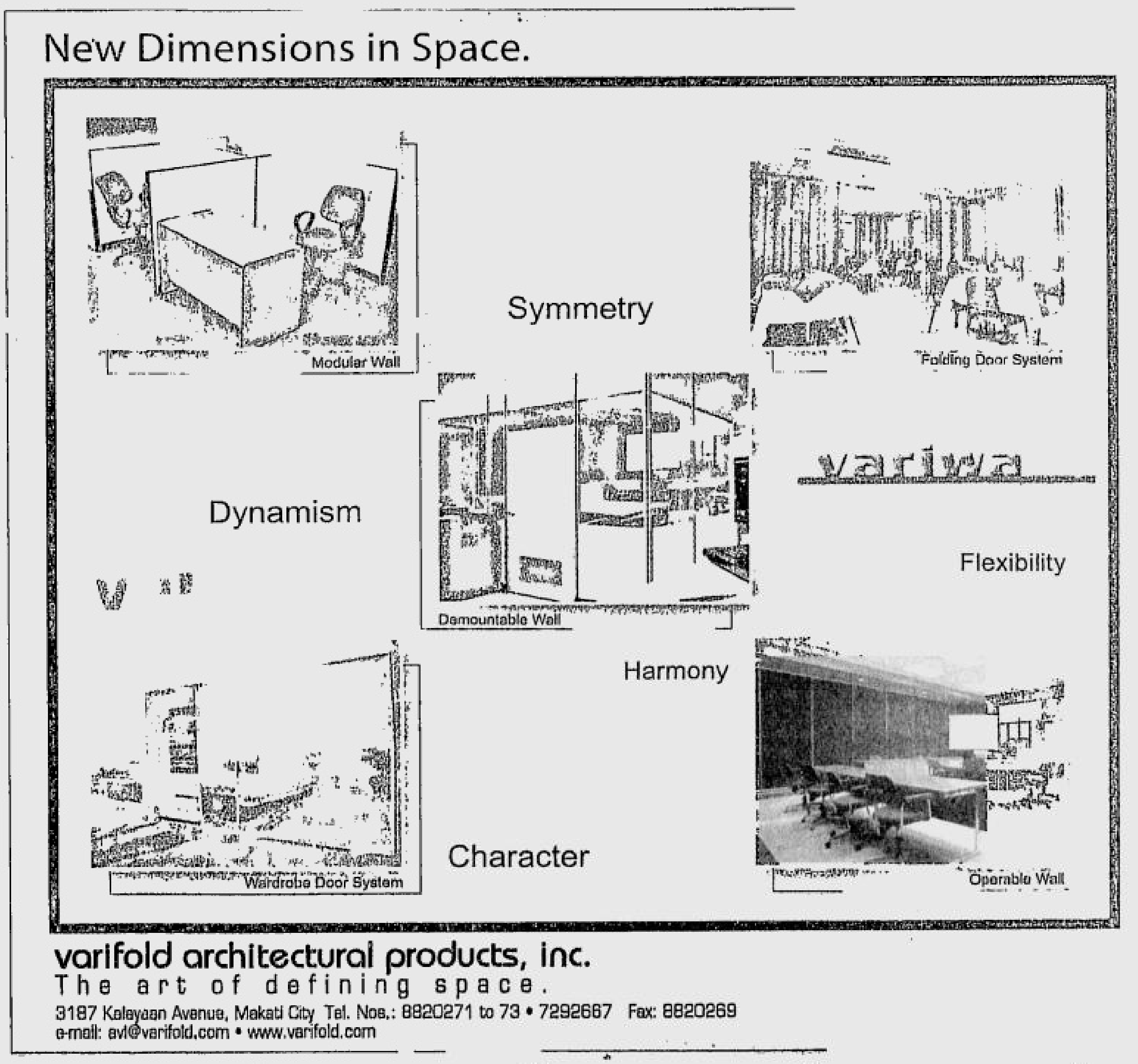
For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on January 14, 2004 at the DOTC Conference Room, 16th Floor Columbia Towers, Brgy. Wack Wack, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Schedule of the site inspection will be set during the pre-bid conference.

All particulars relative to the Prequalification/Eligibility and Bidding process shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of EO No. 40 Series of 2001 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and the Notice, Instructions and Requirements for Prequalification/Eligibility

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect found therein, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid, and accept the bid most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) AGUSTIN R. BENGSON
DOTC Undersecretary & Chairman, Bids
and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 6, 8, 10 & 12, 2003)



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GMA says onion imports 'anomalous'

By Anselmo Roque, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

PALAYAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday last week blamed an office under the Department of Agriculture for the entry of imported onions in the country.

Onion farmers in Nueva Ecija have complained of the entry of cheap imported onions, saying this has resulted in a sharp drop in the sales of locally produced onions.

"I have ordered an investigation about (sic) the continuous importation of red onions," Ms Macapagal said during the Nueva Ecija Day celebration here on Sept. 2. "I found out that the anomaly is connected to an office of the DA (Department of Agriculture)," she said.

Ms Macapagal, however, did not identify this agency.

She said there was proof that there were irregularities in the importation of onions as a DA official looking into the problem was threatened by members of a supposed syndicate in the department.

Threatened

"*May problema talaga dahil binantaan pa nila iyong opisyal na gustong tumulong para matulungan kayong magtatanim ng sibuyas* (There's a real problem here as they threatened the official who was trying to help you, onion growers)," she said in her speech during the Nueva Ecija celebration.

The problem about the onion industry in the country is deep, the President acknowledged. She said she has asked Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. to solve this.

Greg Quinones, head of the high value commercial crops division of the provincial agriculture office, said onion growers in the province have asked Malacañang to help them amid the unrestricted importation of red creole onions.

Quinones said during harvests, usually from February to April, the buying price of onion goes down to P4 a kilogram because the market is flooded with imported onions.

At P4 per kilogram, he said, the farmers could hardly recover their production expenses of P50,000 to P60,000 per hectare.

Quinones said the farmers had suspected that some DA officials are issuing recycled permits to import onions. These permits, he said, were issued in 1998 when there was a shortage in the supply of onions in the country.

Onion growers in Nueva Ecija supply about 90 percent of onions in the country. At least 8,000 hectares in the province are devoted to onion farming.

They said they could not compete with the prices of imported onions because these are cheaper due to the subsidy given to onion growers in other countries. But they said the importation is killing them economically.

Aside from onions, other agricultural products are also imported into the country, resulting in losses to local producers.

Philippine TIPS
TUBERCULOSIS INITIATIVES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector (Philippine TIPS), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-02-00031 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc., is soliciting offers for the supply of services for

RESEARCH SUPPORT
FOR THE PHILIPPINE TIPS INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY
(RFP-TIPS-TO-03B)

Terms of Reference
- The subcontractor shall design and undertake a series of communications research activities using a combination of existing data, focus group discussions or small-size surveys (field interview or phone). Philippine TIPS shall use research findings to develop an integrated communications strategy.

Qualification requirements
Any organization or "Offeror" may bid if-
- It has been operating for three (3) consecutive years as of January 2003;
- It is a Philippine-registered institution or organization based in the Philippines, and majority owned by Filipino or U.S. citizens who are *bona fide* legal residents of the Philippines;
- It has implemented at least five (5) communication research projects, preferably in the health sector, with at least three (3) of these projects conducted as prime contractor; and,
- It has a positive net worth for the year 2002.

For a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP-TIPS-TO-03B), including the format requirements and timelines, kindly get in touch with Mr. Ramon S. Espiritu, Procurement Specialist at (02) 687-7135. **Deadline** for requesting copies of the RFP is on September 10, 2003.

COMING SOON...

THE CONTROVERSIAL billboard on Arellano-Bani Road in Dagupan City.
RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Billboard stirs protest from Dagupan City group

DAGUPAN CITY—Saying these were not a "wholesome sight," a social welfare agency based here asked city and provincial government officials to remove the billboards of a "blonde, naked Caucasian woman" along two busy streets in this city.

The Liwawa ed Asinan Foundation Inc. (Leaf) said the billboards were "suggestive" and sexually provocative, although the woman's breast and sex organ were hidden behind the backrest of a chair.

The billboards, found along the Arellano-Bani Road and the AB Fernandez Street, did not mention any company or product names. The words "Awesome" and "Coming Soon" were written on them, instead.

"There is no clear mental image that the billboards (suggest) but that of a woman possibly soliciting sexual favors," the Leaf said in a manifesto signed by its president, Lina Melecio-Tan.

The Leaf asked the provincial and city governments to remove the billboards to preserve the "meager gains of the campaigns against violence in the homes and the streets."

It also asked officials to form a team or council to screen billboards, posters and similar materials before these are displayed. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bacolod tagged dangerous place

BACOLOD CITY—The head of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said Bacolod City is becoming a dangerous place to live in amid a recent spate of killings that have remained unsolved.

Romeo Baldevarona, CHR Bacolod head, said the city now seemed to be more dangerous to live in than "a forest filled with ferocious and dangerous animals."

The Bacolod City council has also passed a resolution on Thursday expressing grave concern over the worsening peace and order condition in Bacolod City.

Baldevarona was commenting on the recent cases of summary executions in Bacolod City that he described as "alarming."

On Aug. 30, the body of Joefil Hormigos Clemente, 42, of Barangay 3, Bacolod City was found with two gunshot wounds in the head in Hacienda Carmencita, Barangay Mandalagan.

On Aug. 17, the bodies of Julian Villamuzada and his still unidentified companion were found behind Colegio San Agustin with gunshot wounds in the head. Another body, that of Jonal Peralta Evangelista, 26, of Bataan City, was found on the same day with stab and hack wounds at the city's reclamation area.

The bodies of Ricardo Suganob of Patag, Cagayan de Oro, and Maximo Lomongo of Ozamis Occidental were found with gunshot wounds in the head this week in Pulupandan town and Bago City.

Suganob and Lomongo, with another companion, Eleuterio Salabas, disappeared after a traffic altercation with people on board a Red Hyundai Starex van in Barangay Tangub, Bacolod City on Sunday evening. Salabas, a former barangay chair in this city, remained missing. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Davao City on way to regaining image

DAVAO CITY—The city has obviously recovered from the effects of the March and April explosions and the image problem brought by the Moro rebellion, a Malacañang official said.

Jesus Dureza, the President's assistant for Mindanao, made the observation as the city prepares for at least three major international events, which would be held here.

Dureza said security concerns about the city had been reduced by the ceasefire agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The three major conventions scheduled next week are the 11th meeting of senior officials from the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), the 8th EAGA Ministerial Meeting and the Mindanao Trade Exposition 2003.

Dureza said the holding of the three economic activities here would surely boost the tourism industry and trade and investment.

Roger Layson, regional tourism director, said the three events would reinforce Davao's position as the country's alternative venue for meetings, conferences and events.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Higher production cost making life difficult for RP 'durian' growers

By Joel Escovilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Chemicals and fertilizers needed for *durian* production in the country are far more expensive than those in Thailand or Malaysia.

This is the main reason *durian*, commonly known as the king of fruits, also sells at higher prices in the Philippines, according to local producers.

Higher costs

Antonio Avelino, general manager of the South Davao Agricultural Corp. (Sodaco), said they could not discern why fertilizers and other inputs are being sold at higher prices in the country than in other countries.

He said the government should conduct a study on the high prices of inputs to find out where the problem lies and how this could be addressed so that local *durian* growers and exporters would finally be able to compete with their Asian neighbors.

"(The price of) chemicals (in the Philippines) is nine times more expensive (which translates to) higher prices two times or four times more," he said.

For example, a kilo of *durian* in the country costs P39.50 while in Thailand, a kilo only costs about P10.

Avelino said that normally, globalized and liberalized trading would reduce the prices of the imported fertilizers but the opposite is happening.

"Some people thought that the reduction of tariffs would mean cheaper costs," he said.

Culprits

Avelino said local *durian* growers believe that one of the culprits is the certification process of the Fertilizers and Pesticides Authority (FPA).

The process, he said, was too incumbersome.

GOV'T HEALTH PERSONNEL

Gov says docs' pay 'degrading'

By Romy G. Amarado, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—What can you say about a government doctor who is still commuting in a motorcycle after 10 years of service at a government hospital here?

To Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz, it is degrading.

The culprit, Arnaiz said, is the small salary that doctors of government hospitals are receiving, even as he stressed he has nothing but admiration for them and the other medical workers at the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital (NOPH) and other government hospitals in the province for their dedication despite the meager pay.

Arnaiz, a lawyer, said a doctor spends a lot of money taking up medicine, compared to a law student. But he said a clerk of court in a Regional Trial Court receives a bigger salary than a physician at NOPH, who is only receiving P18,000 in monthly salary.

He did not, however, mention how much the clerk of court is receiving. But the governor said what could have been most unfair is the fact that a driver or a janitor of the Government Service Insurance System receives bigger salaries and fringe benefits than a government doctor in the province.

Arnaiz said this was one of the reasons at least 42 doctors in the province, many of them working at NOPH, are now taking up nursing courses so that they could find better-paying jobs abroad.

The governor said the government should improve the plight of doctors or the country faces a serious shortage of doctors in the future.

Arnaiz also called on the three congressmen in Negros Oriental to file a bill amending the Salary Standardization Law in order to allow local government units to raise the salaries of doctors.

Arnaiz said Negros Oriental, for example, could afford to increase the salaries of its doctors once it is allowed to do so by law.

The governor said the provincial government is also studying the idea of re-hiring retired government doctors to address the shortage of doctors at government hospitals here.

This is on top of tapping the services of consultants who are allowed to collect minimal fees from their patients.

The governor said many retired government doctors have indicated their willingness to continue serving the people for a minimal fee.

The NOPH needs 30 to 40 doctors in addition to the existing 40, the governor said.

2 NPAs slain in clash

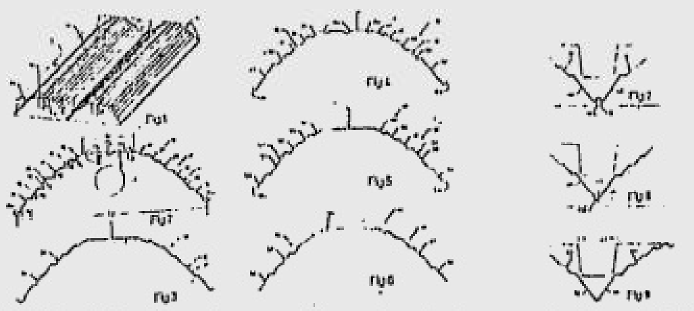
DAVAO CITY—At least two communist guerrillas were killed in a clash with soldiers in Matanao, Davao del Sur on Friday, the military said.

In Misamis Oriental, the military and the New People's Army (NPA) also clashed, leaving an undetermined number of rebels either killed or wounded.

Lt. Col. Hernando Iriberri, commander of the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion based in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, said the encounter took place as soldiers led by Lt. Roberto Betita were patrolling the neighborhood of Barangay Asinan around 8:30 a.m.

He said Betita's group chanced upon seven rebels roaming the neighborhood.

Iriberri said the rebels fired on the soldiers and a brief exchange of gunfire erupted. *Anthony Allada and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that the intellectual Property Office has officially issued the Letters Patent No. 25264 dated March 27, 1991 appearing below, entitled **"CUSTOMIZED LIGHT REFLECTOR"** to LUISITO A. FIGUEROA

LETTERS PATENT NO. 25264

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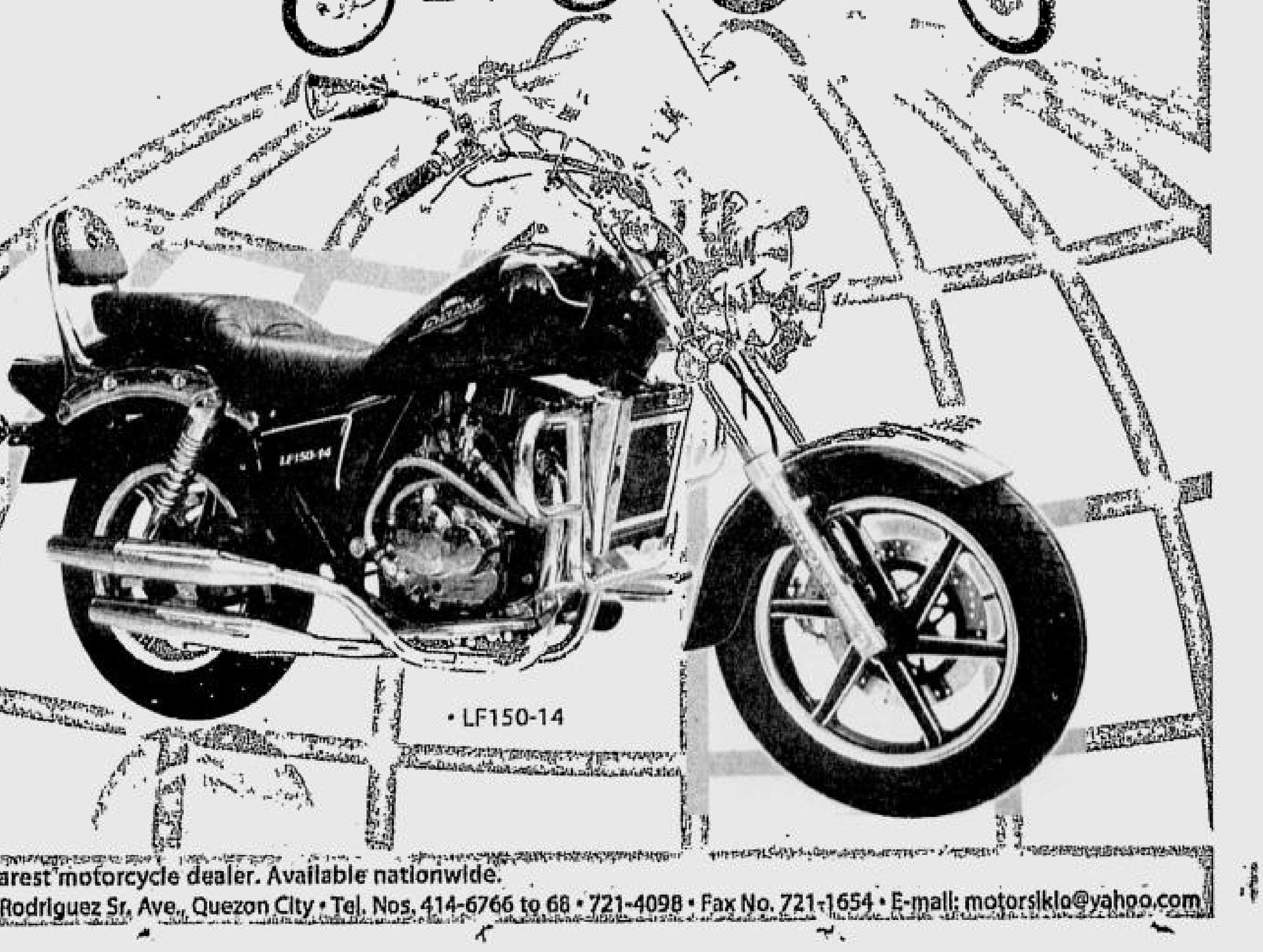

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Lacson camp belies bank, presents Jose Pidal check

From page A1

left the Lacson camp on Aug. 26.

The informant, a male, is said to be working in the LTA Building in Makati, where the First Gentleman holds office.

Before the new informant came into the picture, the Lacson camp had only the bank account number of Jose Pidal at BPI and "did not have a trace document that would prove a Jose Pidal check issued at BPI," Banayo said. He also showed to reporters a photocopy of a Union Bank-Perea branch check for P635,000 from Account No. 00-073-001483-6, which Jose Pidal issued to Velprint Corp.

Like their counterparts in BPI, officials of Union Bank-Perea branch said in affidavits they submitted last week to three Senate committees that there was no Jose Pidal account in the bank.

Pathetic

The lawyer of Ignacio Arroyo, who claims he is Jose Pidal, said the checks presented by Banayo at a press conference "mean nothing" because they were photocopied.

"This is getting pathetic," Antonio Zulueta said in a statement.

Zulueta said Banayo should instead present "hard evidence of the alleged multimillion-peso Jose Pidal accounts which he claimed existed to this day."

"We are not even saying that the facsimiles they presented to the media this afternoon are real. For all we know, these may again be fabrications similar to the plethora of nonexistent accounts that Senator Lacson enumerated in his Sept. 1 privileged speech," said Zulueta.

Assuming the photocopies were those of real checks, he said "they would actually serve to bolster Mr. Ignacio Arroyo's claim over the existence of the BPI and Union Bank accounts which he had acknowledged."

Zulueta said the two checks mentioned by Banayo, "assuming they are real, are for piddling sums and for innocent purposes and dated five years ago. They are so far removed from the P260 million in several existing bank accounts that Lacson is trying to pin on the First Gentleman."

Asked whether the Lacson camp would take action against BPI, Banayo said "not necessarily."

"All we want is the truth to come out and not to be hidden by well-paid propagandists and spin masters, as well as administration senators who are in defense of Jose Miguel Arroyo, even if such defense is contrary to the interest of the Republic of the Philippines," he told reporters.

Hearing today

Banayo said the two checks would be among the documents that the Lacson's camp would submit to the Senate blue ribbon, constitutional amendments and banks committees when they resume today the hearing on Lacson's allegations against Arroyo.

Lacson is not expected to attend the hearing because he is still abroad gathering more evidence against the First Gentleman, according to Banayo.

The opposition senator, who reportedly left for Australia on Sept. 5, is expected to be back this week.

Expected to be grilled at today's hearing is the First Gentleman's younger brother, Ignacio.

Officials of Union Bank, BPI and International Exchange Bank are also to testify on the existence of the Jose Pidal accounts and other suspected dummy accounts, according to Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, which is leading the inquiry.

Banayo said Lacson need not submit original documents that form part of his evidence against the First Gentleman.

He recalled that during the Senate blue ribbon hearings of the PEA-Amari controversy, then committee chair Sen. Franklin Drilon was the one who subpoenaed the Public Estates Authority to give the committee all its documents.

Drilon, he said, did not ask then Sen. Ernesto Maceda, who exposed the lopsided deal, to present the evidence.

In a phone interview, Senator Arroyo said some of his colleagues were worried about "the image of the Senate and where the inquiry is going."

Asked when the hearings would be terminated, he said: "It will depend upon developments and the attitudes of senators." *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Bugpower . . .

From page A1

nearest bowl of sugar, flip open the phone, top up the battery with a wee spoonful, give it a little time—and hey presto, you are connected to the world again.

This sci-fi scenario may lie in the not-too-distant future, thanks to a pair of US-based scientists who say they have invented the world's first efficient "bacterial battery" in a Pentagon-backed project.

University of Massachusetts researchers Swades Chaudhuri, an Indian, and Derek Lovley, an American, say the battery's source is an underground bacterium that gobbles up sugar and converts its energy into electricity.

Their prototype device ran flawlessly without refueling for up to 25 days and is cheap and stable.

"This is a unique organism," Lovley says in an interview with AFP, as he outlines an array of potential applications.

The bug in question is *Rhodoferax ferriducens*, which was found in airless sediment deep below ground at a terrestrial site at Oyster Bay, Virginia, and identified as a promising candidate for oxidizing simple sugars.

The two scientists, whose work will be published on Sunday in the specialist journal Nature Biotechnology, set up a small two-chamber vessel, with each side containing a graphite electrode and separated by a membrane.

On one side was *R. ferriducens* swimming in a glucose solution, which it broke down into carbon dioxide and electrons.

The electrons were transported to the nearby electrode, called the anode, and driven around an external circuit to the other electrode, the cathode: electrical power.

Microbial fuel cells are not new, but until now they have run into big problems of cost and energy efficiency.

Typically, they yield efficiency of "10 percent or less," which makes them big and unwieldy relative to the power they provide, according to Lovley.

The best effort has had an efficiency performance of about 50 percent.

But this was only achieved thanks to chemicals called mediators which sneak across the cell's membranes, pick up the free electrons and ferry them to the anode. *AFP*

Release of 3 OFWs pressed

From page A1

21 to give her a "political photo opportunity" with the three overseas Filipino workers.

Santiago said that although the three workers—Joselito Alejo, Ramiro Esmero and Romeo Cordova—already had their exit visas, "they may be forced to stay in the country for a few weeks ... for various publicity shots with Gloria."

She said Ms Macapagal should direct the Department of Foreign Affairs to immediately act on the repatriation, instead of "exploiting and prolonging the families' pain just to further her own political agenda."

But Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, in a news conference before the weekend, said the release of the three was "imminent."

"Now that they have suffered the punishment for their crime, we look forward to having them return to us on the earliest possible flight," Ople said.

Technically still under detention, the workers are in the custody of the embassy in Riyadh.

The families of the three OFWs have appealed for the immediate repatriation.

"In all those years I cried, wondering if he'd come home alive," said Norma De Dios, Alejo's sister. "I want him home. He's been away from us for so long. He's been through so much. He told me the other day that he wants to come home now."

Esmero's daughter, Joana Mica, 12 also called for her father's immediate repatriation. "*Miss na namin si Papa. Sana mapauwi na siya kaagad* (We miss our father, and wish he goes home now)," she said.

According to the report of the Philippine Embassy, the last 70 lashes of the penalty meted out to Alejo and Esmero were administered at the Malaz Jail at around 10:20 a.m. on Aug. 27.

A certain Colonel Hamad, the head jailor, ordered the *jalad* (the person tasked with the lashing) to deliver the lashing in the presence of embassy officials Mariano Dumia, Ahmad Bajunaid, Rey Banda and Tom Lauzon and the *muttawa* (religious police).

The lashing was done after the two Filipinos were first examined by a prison physician. The entire procedure took a few minutes. Neither was seriously injured, the embassy reported.

On July 9, Judge Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Obad of the Riyadh Emergency Court found Cordova guilty of falsifying his travel document, while Alejo and Esmero were found guilty of failing to report their knowledge of the murder of Fahad Al-Otaibi, a member of a Saudi law enforcement agency, to the police.

"I still think we are fortunate not to have the death penalty applied to our *kababayan* (countrymen) despite the appeal of the family of the deceased Saudi policeman," Ople said.

He said he had directed Philippine Ambassador Bahnarim Guinomla to continue monitoring the issuance of the necessary Saudi clearances so the three OFWs could "return soonest" to their families.

In Pasay City, a group of OFW families said maltreatment and physical abuse still topped the list of problems overseas Filipino workers suffered abroad.

Most of the complaints received by the OFW Family Club, its chair said, concerned the maltreatment of employees, especially domestic helpers.

Roy Señeres Jr., son of the former Philippine ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and chair of the OFW Family Club, said complaints of unpaid salaries and diminution of wages ranked next.

Spouses complaining of nonsupport by their OFW husbands are also a common story, Señeres said. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*

GMA target of attacks by Danding, Ping, Gringo

From page A1

Macapagal, at a time when the country is again rocked by political turbulence and economic crises.

By defining the economy as the battleground of the 2004 elections, Cojuangco has identified the terrain of political combat into which he seeks to draw other contenders, including Ms Macapagal, if she decides to junk her December 2002 decision not to seek a full term.

Cojuangco's focus on economic issues and programs highlights the contrast of his approach with those who have declared their intentions to stand for president.

Suffering from this contrast are Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, who is paving his path to the presidency with the heads of the targets of his anticorruption offensive mounted on the Senate podium, and Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, whose chosen route to the presidency is the coup d'etat, an undemocratic method.

Cojuangco's speech sets the tone that has put other presidential aspirants—including former Education Secretary Raul Roco and a movie actor—on the defensive by pushing them to define their policies and programs to make them viable alternatives to Ms Macapagal, if she decides to run.

Elections in a democracy are about giving the people a choice and an alternative.

Thus, Lacson, Honasan, Roco, the actor and another celebrity (or those whose names have been mentioned in the poll surveys), have to respond to the question on what they stand for and how they would be better than Ms Macapagal, whom they seek to replace.

Main concern

The choice of the economy as the arena of the presidential election reflects one of the main concerns not only of the business community but also of the general public.

For example, the Pulse Asia survey of May 2003 found that 30 percent of the respondents cited economic recovery as the country's most urgent concern, after national peace which was cited by 31 percent.

In the order of concerns, corruption took the backseat, which was cited by only 21 percent of the respondents, indicating that the public mood does not reflect the Senate's priority of engaging in muckraking to unearth corruption scandals.

The survey, which was taken after the failed July 27 coup, reflects concerns over national peace—an issue that has been hijacked by the coup and subsequent waves of coup rumors.

Although Cojuangco asked for patience in resolving the political impasse, pointing out that elections were only eight months away and that impulsive demands to end the Macapagal administration before 2004 could and should wait for a democratic resolution of the question of electoral legitimacy, which could only be subverted by the coup d'etat, a method to gain power favored by the Honasan military junta cabal.

Although Cojuangco considers the economy his priority like Ms Macapagal does, he spelled out different approaches in crafting pro-business policies.

In a pitch that captured the main complaints of the business community, Cojuangco highlighted the need for the government "to curtail the judiciary's power to arbitrarily overturn contracts or concessions."

He called for the abandonment of protectionism and the removal of bureaucratic and administrative barriers that block productivity and impede the opening up of various economic sectors to attract foreign investment.

It is not enough that Cojuangco outlines his contrasts with the economic-oriented Macapagal administraion to be a credible alternative.

President's rating

In a subsequent analysis, I shall examine the issues that are likely to emerge from Cojuangco's offer to be an alternative. The issues center on the possible conflict between Cojuangco's extensive business empire on one hand, and those of competing businesses and the larger public interests on the other.

Significantly, Cojuangco's speech followed the May-June 2003 Social Weather Stations survey which found that Ms Macapagal's net satisfaction rating had made a dramatic recovery.

The President's rating recovered to plus 14 percent in the second quarter of 2003, from negative 14 percent in the first quarter, and plus 6 percent in the fourth quarter 2002. The latest rating is about the average for her since she took office in January 2001.

Whether or not prospective presidential contenders are aware of the survey, which was taken before the July 27 coup, it is significant that Cojuangco's bid to define the next election's issue as resting on the economy, the Honasan-inspired military conspiracy and Lacson's scorched-earth anticorruption offensive in the Senate were launched in the midst of the recovery of Ms Macapagal's rating.

The focus of Cojuangco's attempt to win the business constituency is the same as that of the failed coup, the coup rumors sweeping the country, and Lacson's corruption exposé in the Senate. It is to put an end to the Macapagal transitional presidency—either via the electoral arena or through the shortcut of the coup d'etat.

Whether the high net satisfaction rating of Ms Macapagal and the performance of her administration will weigh in her decision to go back on her promise not to run in 2004, it is not a coincidence that the bulls-eye of the opposition's recent political moves, including what amounts to Cojuangco's economic policy speech, is the President.

The implication of this concentration of attacks on the President is that many of the prospective presidential contenders are tacitly admitting that the person to beat in 2004 is Ms Macapagal—that is, if she decides to run.

The poll ratings of both Honasan and Lacson have progressively declined. These troublemakers are skidding down the slope. With the list of presidential contenders narrowing, the two senators are in danger of being eliminated in the informal selection process.

This explains why both Honasan and Lacson have resorted to audacious power bids and why they are so impatient with damaging the administration and constitutional methods before the elections. They see their paths to power leading to a dead end.

What our most critical concern is that the arena for presidential battle in 2004 does not shift from democratic discourse over clear alternatives toward the unacceptable option of military intervention as the arbiter of political change.

Foundation linked to Erap can't account for ₱446M

From page A1

December 2000, and P21.8 million from January to April 2001.

But Saber, in a financial statement submitted in December 1999, declared only an income of P404,699, which, a review of the contract said, "was greatly understated."

It was not known where the P446 million went, although in a letter to then airport manager Antonio Gana, Saber claimed that it was a nonstock, nonprofit organization "organized primarily to engage in sociocivic and charitable projects" of Estrada, who is now detained on corruption charges.

Muslim scholars

"The current focus of the foundation is a scholarship program for Muslim scholars. Other projects in Mindanao are also being developed," said the letter dated Feb. 3, 1999 and signed by Richard I. Harn, project manager of Saber.

But a review of the contract made by airport officials said Saber failed to submit a report "on where the scholarship fund goes together with the complete list and documents of their supposed scholars."

Saber, airport records said, remitted P94.7 million in concessionaire's fees from 1999 to 2001 to the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), but there was no accounting of the funds.

The review said airport officials were inclined to believe that the income earned by the foundation simply went to the pockets of very high-ranking officials.

"With the huge amount of money derived from porterage services, it is hereby submitted that the ... highly irregular transactions leading to the award of (contracts) to Saber ... are more than sufficient to assume that the foundation was used as a scheme to enrich some persons at the expense of the (airport) authority," it said.

"The persons mentioned could be then President (Estrada) and his chosen few," said the review signed by Enrico Quiambao, head of the MIAA business development and concessions department.

Name-dropping

From his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, Estrada denied any knowledge of Saber or any of its officials.

"My name has been overused," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

While noting that Gana was his appointee, he doubted whether the Saber-MIAA contract, approved under Gana's term, ever reached the Office of the President. He even challenged the INQUIRER to check whether it did.

"Investigate it through Gana and get to the bottom of this," Estrada said.

"I don't know any of them from Adam," he said after the INQUIRER gave him the names of Saber's officers starting with Harn.

"Name-dropping is very common," he said, conceding that certain groups during his presidency might have claimed having connections with him without his permission.

"What projects? Who were those Muslims?" he asked when told of Harn's letter to Gana claiming that Saber's earnings were meant to fund his administration's socio-civic and charitable projects.

Estrada cited four foundations which he had expressly permitted to use his name: Erap Muslim Youth Foundation, Erap Scholarship Foundation, Erap Para sa Mahirap Foundation, and another foundation put up by his high school classmates from Ateneo de Manila's Class '55.

First Gentleman

Saber also has links with Jose Miguel Arroyo, the President's husband, and MIAA General Manager Edgardo Manda, according to sources interviewed by the INQUIRER.

The sources said Saber continued to operate after the ouster of Estrada and the operations benefited persons close to Ms Macapagal.

But Manda, in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, denied that he had links with the foundation. He said it was he who terminated the questionable contracts of the foundation on April 11, 2001 to operate porter services at Naia 1 and Naia 2.

"It was under my term that those contracts were exposed and terminated," said Manda.

"The First Gentleman is in no way connected with this foundation. He is totally unaware of its operations," Manda, speaking on behalf of Arroyo, said.

A copy of the articles of incorporation of Saber, which was certified by the Securities and Exchange Commission on Jan. 29, 1999, listed Mario E. Hisuler, Godofredo C. de Guzman, Crisologo O. Dionido, Elvi Peter L. Relampagos and Porter Pogoon as the foundation's incorporators.

Hisuler, a former congressman of Lanao del Norte and former chief of staff of ex-Sen. Ernesto Herrera, was murdered in Nueva Ecija on May 1, 2000 while visiting the grave of a friend, Justice Jun Valerio. The murder case has not been solved.

At the time of his murder, Hisuler was with Pogoon, an immigration commissioner, and Dionido, a lawyer.

De Guzman, based on records unearthed by the INQUIRER research department, was also a lawyer and a member of the board of directors of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

The documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that on March 8, 1999, Saber entered into a negotiated contract with the MIAA for "sole and exclusive rights to operate porterage services at Naia Terminal 1."

The contract replaced the one the MIAA entered into with the Ifugao Development Foundation, which expired on Dec. 31, 1998.

In Resolution No. 99-12, the board of directors of the MIAA awarded another contract to Saber to operate porter services at Naia 2 starting on Dec. 1, 1999 and ending on Nov. 30, 2000.

PAL domestic flights

One irregularity in the concessionaire's permit awarded to Saber was allowing it to operate porter services for domestic flights of Philippine Airlines at Naia 2, according to an audit of the two contracts.

"The porterage services for domestic flights is one more source of revenue that will generate added income to Saber Development Foundation Inc.," said a report of the Commission on Audit, dated March 10, 2000.

The report said the MIAA was capable of operating porter services at the airports and earning revenues for the government instead of awarding porter services contracts to Saber.

Saber, it said, was asked to pay the MIAA only P3.6 million in January and February 1999. The MIAA could have earned double that amount for the two months alone if it had operated the porter services on its own, according to the COA report.

Davao broadcaster Jun Pala shot dead

From page A1

Duterte then reacted to the charge, saying: "If I was the one who did it, he would have been dead already."

Pala had since become extra careful about his security. Until Saturday, he had anchored his program from his house.

He did not go out without his bodyguards provided by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG). But on Saturday, he went out with only his cousin and a friend.

The AP report, quoting police investigator Ranulfo Cabanog, said one of Pala's companions carried a rifle but it was not immediately clear if he was able to fire back.

HARD-HITTING radio commentator Jun Pala is shown in this file photo wearing his signature attire in the 1980s when he gained fame for becoming the mouthpiece of the anti-communist Alsa Masa in Davao City. PDI PHOTO

Former friends

Asked to comment about Pala's death during his Sunday program over ABS-CBN television here, Duterte said: His life already ended. I leave it to the police (to find out who did it).

But the mayor said he was willing to be investigated on suspicion that he masterminded the ambush.

Duterte and Pala used to be allies, but their friendship turned sour in 2001.

Since then, Pala became a regular critic of the mayor, who is known for his mailed-fist policy toward criminals.

Raul Antipuesto, dxGO station manager, condemned the assassination as an act "of curtailing press freedom."

He said he suspected the killing was politically motivated "or related to Pala's job as a broadcaster."

Baby Castillo, the victim's co-anchor, said Pala had been receiving death threats because of his hard-hitting commentaries.

Louise also confirmed the death threats. She said her husband would receive threatening calls and text messages even when he was on air. But as usual, the broadcaster would dish out his favorite word: "scalawag."

Shot at fame

Louise said she acknowledged that her husband's commentaries had deepened animosity between him and Duterte that could have stemmed from politics.

"*Malalim na talaga* (It's already deep)," she said. "But we can't point at him (Duterte) right now since there is no evidence yet."

Antipuesto said he had advised Pala to tone down his attacks but was ignored.

Even when he was starting his broadcast career after college in 1981, Pala was already critical of wrongdoings he encountered as a police reporter of radio dxOW in 1981.

His shot at fame came when he became the mouthpiece of the Alsa Masa. Later, he founded another anticommunist group, called the Contra Force, which allowed him to make friends with many influential and powerful people, including military officials.

Pala threw himself into the political arena by running for city mayor in 1988. He lost.

In 1992, he joined the congressional race but lost again. He ran for councilor representing the city's second district in 1998 and was successful this time.

In 2001, he became the running mate of former Mayor Benjamin de Guzman, but lost not only the post but also his friendship with Duterte.

Dangerous country

The National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) chapter in Davao City said Pala's death only proved that the country was becoming another Colombia.

Since 1986, more than 40 journalists had been killed in the country. Pala was the sixth media person to be killed this year after John Villanueva Jr. of Legazpi City, Apolinario Pobeda of Lucena City, Bonifacio Gregorio of Tarlac City, Noel Villarante of Sta. Cruz town in Laguna, and Rico Ramirez of San Francisco town in Agusan del Sur.

"While it is true that there are still questions surrounding Pala and the nature of his death (he was also a politician who incurred the ire of his opponents, he surrounded himself with bodyguards and firearms, some say he was not exactly a paragon of journalistic virtue, etc.), there is no denying one simple fact: Somebody wanted him silenced," Carlos Conde, NUJP coordinator, said in a statement.

Conde said Pala might have used his radio program for his personal interest. Even so, Pala's death bolstered the idea that people who dare to speak out are fair game, Conded added.

"And if something like this can be done on Pala, who presumably enjoyed a certain amount of protection from the power he derived from broadcasting and politics, then no journalist is safe," he said. *With reports from Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AP*

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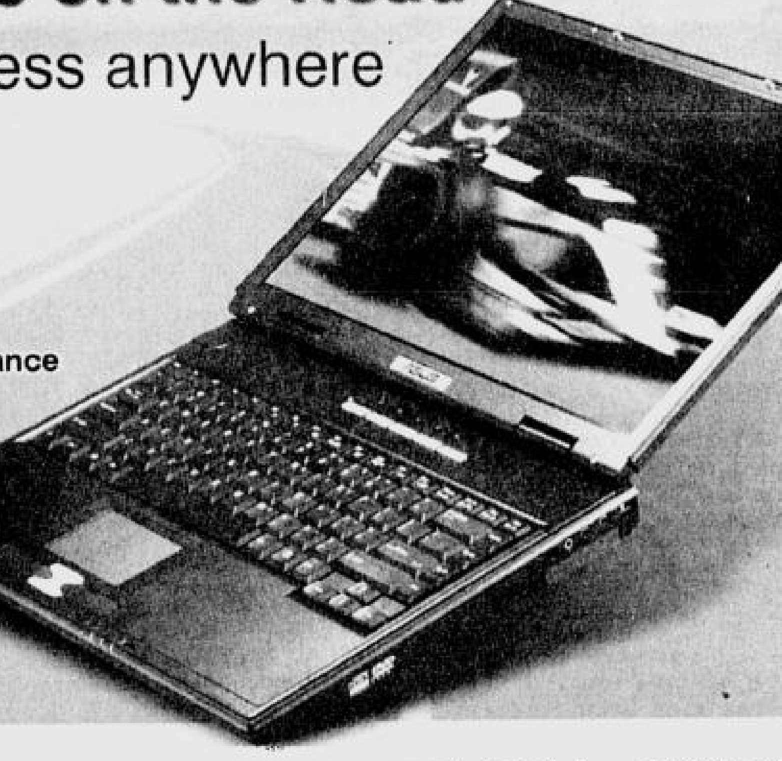

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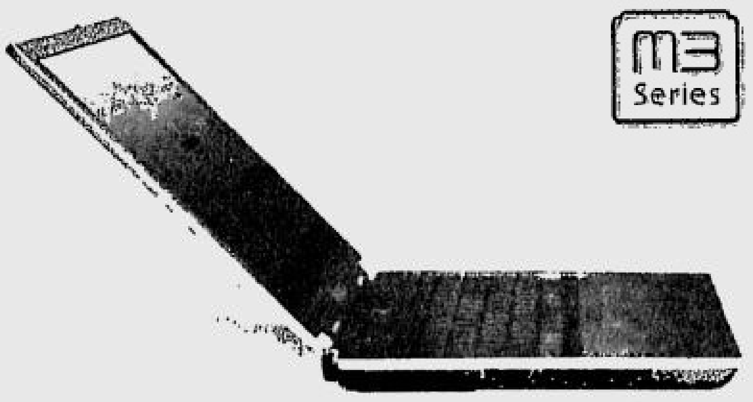

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NATIONWIDE DEALERS: MANILA [illegible]

Earth is moving east of Metro Manila

By Joey C. Papa and Ana V. Papa

THE CHERRY Hills disaster of Aug. 3, 1999 greatly agitated the public. It also prompted a team of geologists from the National Institute of Geological Sciences of the College of Science of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, to study the vulnerability of the Antipolo-San Mateo-Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) area.

These areas, according to geologists, are naturally vulnerable to erosion and landslides, which are aggravated by ill-planned and badly executed man-made "development" activities.

Titled "Geological Base-lining of Hill-based Subdivisions in Antipolo and Montalban Areas," the study seeks to provide a scientific basis for classifying the vulnerability to landslides of Antipolo, San Mateo and Rodriguez and to interpret the findings to non-geologists.

Factors

Specifically, the study aims to help people involved in designing and implementing engineering measures against ground problems in hilly subdivisions.

The team was composed of Graciano Yumul Jr., Victor Maglambayan, Eric Andal, Hillel Cabria, Joel de Jesus, and Decibel Faustino.

Landslides, according to the study, are aggravated both by natural and man-made factors.

Natural factors include the nature and strength of soils and rocks, the spacing and orientation of cracks in the rocks, slope angle, climate, amount of rainfall and vegetation.

Man-made factors include the removal of supporting materials at the base of the slope, overloading of slopes, and the kind of land use.

"The combination of several of these factors is a frequent cause of devastating landslides," the study says.

Particular sites pinpointed in the study to be prone to landslides are "parts of Antipolo to San Mateo, the Angono area, and the hilly areas northeast of Rodriguez."

Owing also to the Cherry Hills disaster, an Urban Geology Section has been created under the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to address the need for "geologic and geotechnical baseland survey" prior to land development.

Anxious

Also, DENR Administrative Order 99-33 now requires the submission of an Engineering, Geology and Geohazard Assessment Reports from all over the country.

In the wake of the Cherry Hills landslide, anxiety gripped residents of adjacent San Mateo.

A quick inspection of upland San Mateo reveals past and present dangers—signs of still worse things to come.

VULNERABILITY to erosion and sudden earth movements is exposed on this upland San Mateo farm-to-market road, which shows long, deep, dry cracks due to the weak ground composition.

At the start of the climb, with a view of Gulod Malaya on the right, there is ongoing quarrying of loose soil.

Further up is the Kambal-Maarat Road, where at one point, a ravine is slowly eating up the side of the cemented road.

A closer look reveals a deep, hollow portion that a strong downpour could easily expand to the underside of the pavement.

A geologist from the DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau who earlier inspected the place informed his guide, Noli Abinales, president of Buklod Tao, Inc., a leading people's organization in San Mateo, that a strong and inclined steel matting should have been built to reinforce the slope.

Below, the hollow on the roadside runs a creek lined with shanties.

Along the roadside, a long fissure marks off the portion of the ground that is about to go.

A few meters up from this hollow spot is an open dumpsite, where on July 7, 2002, Abinales said, a trash slide killed two children.

City in the sky

Across this former dumpsite is a large area being claimed by a Taiwanese firm. Here, more signs of active quarrying and topsoil erosion are visible.

The road that would connect to the other side, Pintong Bukawe, better known for the now closed San Mateo landfill, stands the gate of a 677-hectare property in Sitio Propito, Barangay Malanday, which would have been the site for the "city in the sky."

In 1997, concerned San Mateo residents and people's organizations including Buklod Tao Inc.; Gising Ka, Bayan; and Kabataan Para sa Kalikasan protested, which led to the suspension of development activities.

LIKE an accident in the making, this portion of the Kambal-Maarat Road which connects the San Mateo town proper with the upland communities is slowly deteriorating due to erosion and may soon send itself and passing vehicles into the growing ravine on the left.

PHOTOS BY JOEY C. PAPA AND ANA V. PAPA

In May of that year, as recorded on video and narrated by Fr. Benny de Guzman, workers had wantonly cut down or bulldozed trees and vegetation in the area.

Earlier, part of this had been awarded to 73 agrarian reform beneficiaries already in possession of Certificates of Land Ownership Award from the Department of Agrarian Reform.

The area now looks abandoned and hardly any rehabilitation has been carried out.

The proponents point to a portion of a DENR letter, which they have interpreted as preventing any activity, including rehabilitation, until, it is assumed, full resolution of the issue is arrived at.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Review Committee convened by the DENR in 1997 to look into the proposed "city in the sky" project notes the following: "With the present land cover, 82 percent of the total project area already has severe to very severe soil erosion."

Where to?

It added, "The soil in the area not only has high erodability but also has slow permeability and moderate infiltration rate. This would contribute to accelerated soil erosion on flat to gently sloping land surface during the rainy season."

With these considerations, the committee recommended disapproval of the project.

In a memorandum from the DENR Office for the Calabarzon dated April 14, 2003, it was revealed that the project proponent was negotiating with local government authorities on their proposal to create "(a) farm lots subdivision, a miniforest, eco-tourist parks and outdoor recreation components."

The view from the hill is exhilarating despite the ill-executed "development" activities, at least for now.

But everything in nature is connected, said Abinales.

Now, quo vadis, San Mateo? Where to?

SAMAKA (Samahan ng mga Maka-kalikasan)-Rizal, the consolidation of all environment-loving groups in the province, poses that question.

Not much time is left for the Antipolo-San Mateo-Rodriguez natural preserves.

(Authors are members of Eco-Waste Coalition. E-mail at bangon_kalikasan@skyinet.net)

PNP: Loot from bank heists goes to 2004 election fund

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE RECENT bank robberies in Metro Manila could be more serious than what President Macapagal-Arroyo had thought.

Besides being part of a supposed destabilization plot, certain politicians could be using the robberies to raise funds for next year's elections, Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said yesterday.

"We have received reports to this effect and we are trying to get all (pieces of) evidence," he told reporters in a press conference.

Should it be proven by "direct evidence" that some politicians had a hand in the robberies, he said the link would be a "grave problem and would have so much bearing on the election process."

In the months before the 1998 elections, Ebdane noted that there was also a spate of bank robberies carried out by at least two factions of the Kuratong Baleleng gang.

"It appears that they resurface only when elections are nearing," he said.

Asked if opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson could be involved, Ebdane told one reporter: "You said so."

Lacson was linked to the Kuratong group when, in May 1995, he and a composite team of police operatives allegedly summarily executed several gang members in Quezon City.

He was then a task force chief of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission.

The alleged rubout was said to have been meant to stop the slain gang members from squealing on the purported involvement of some police officials in previous bank robberies.

Remnants of the Kuratong group were also believed to be behind the robbery at the Citibank Center in Makati City last August 25.

The incident prompted Ms Macapagal to order the PNP to investigate if crimes such as bank robbery and car theft were part of efforts to destabilize the government.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina earlier noted that the Citibank incident had the signature of the Kuratong Baleleng: the use of high-powered firearms and military uniforms, and the swift operation.

The incident was also apparently staged to create a "picture of disorder and helplessness" on the part of law enforcement agencies, the Cabinet official claimed.

"Then they will be used as a political platform by some political groups," he had said in a press conference.

Certain groups had said that the Arroyo administration had "lost control" over the situation in the country.

Ebdane has ordered policemen in the provinces to hunt down former Kuratong members implicated in the Makati robbery.

By arresting these suspects, he said, police investigators would be able to determine their possible "active" connections with some politicians.

Bucor to question judge's ruling

By Alcuin Papa

BUREAU of Corrections (Bucor) Director Dionisio Santiago yesterday questioned the decision of a Muntinlupa City judge holding them liable for holding drug convict Peter Co in seclusion.

In a phone interview, Santiago said they would contest the decision which Judge Philip Aguinaldo of Branch 207 issued Friday.

He said they had been holding Co in seclusion for the past two weeks because of offenses like bringing in and using cellphones and possession of shabu.

Santiago thundered, "*Kung hindi namin gagawin ito, eh 'di tatanga-tanga kami dito* (If we don't do this, we would look stupid)."

Santiago said Co's lawyers filed a petition for habeas corpus. Subsequently, the judge said the seclusion of Co was illegal.

Aguinaldo said the seclusion of Co did not "satisfy the requirements of due process" because no proceedings were conducted by the NBP before secluding Co.

But Santiago said, "There might be some influence on the ruling."

Barangay captains now allowed…

From page A24

lowed to carry even licensed firearms inside videoke bars, nightclubs, and restaurants.

Barangay leaders had suggested that they be allowed to carry and use guns during the "Ugnayan ng Pulisya at Mamamayan" in Camp Crame last week.

They claimed that local officials, armed only with wooden clubs, were practically helpless against gun-totting criminals.

Earlier this year, the PNP tightened the issuance of the gun permits following the cold-blooded killing of an Ateneo law graduate over a traffic row in Pasay City.

"We had regulations then, but they were being abused," Ebdane said.

Back then, there were at least 30,000 people with Permits To Carry Firearms Outside of Residence (PTCFOR), he said.

The number has dwindled to around 800 since the crackdown, he added.

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Office 2000 (Win2000, Word Excel, PowerPoint) P6,400/48hrs	6:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-6:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Oct13-Nov06 Nov17-Dec11 Oct25-Dec06
Open Office P5,000/45hrs	9:00-12:00	M-F	Oct27-Nov14
Program Logic Formulation P2,400/30hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 3:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th Sat Fri	Oct06-Oct21 Oct06-Oct21 Oct25-Dec06 Oct03-Oct24
JAVA Programing Fundamentals (Module 1) P6,500/36hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 9:00-12:00 8:00-3:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat	Oct20-Nov06 Oct20-Nov06 Nov17-Dec04 Nov08-Dec13
DreamWeaver P5,600/30hrs	3:30-8:30 6:00-9:00	Sat M-TH	Oct25-Nov29 Oct27-Nov11
Macromedia Flash Action Script P4,800/24hrs	9:00-12:00	M-Th	Nov03-Nov13
Web Animation Using Flash P4,800/24hrs	8:00-5:00 9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	Sat M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sun Sun	Oct11-Oct25 Oct06-Oct16 Oct20-Oct30 Oct13-Oct23 Nov3-Nov13 Oct05-Oct19 Nov09-Nov23
Visual Basic .Net Fundamentals P7,500/45hrs	9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 9:00-12:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Oct06-Oct29 Oct06-Oct29 Nov10-Dec03 Nov10-Dec03 Oct04-Nov15 Oct05-Nov16
MS Access P3,500/30hrs	6:30-8:30 6:30-8:30 8:00-5:00 6:30-8:30 6:30-8:30 8:00-6:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th Sat M-Th M-Th Sat Sat	Sep15-Sep30 Oct06-Oct21 Sep27-Oct18 Oct27-Nov11 Nov17-Dec02 Oct25-Nov22 Nov29-Dec20
Programming in C++ P4,000/36hrs	8:00-3:00 8:00-5:00	Sat Sun	Oct04-Nov16 Oct05-Nov02
Developing Applications in JAVA Module 2 P6,500/30hrs	1:30-4:30 3:30-8:30 1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00	MThF Sat MThF M-Th	Oct09-Oct27 Nov08-Dec13 Nov10-Dec05 Nov17-Dec04
Network Technology P6,000/45hrs	9:00-12:00 1:30-4:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Fri Sat	Oct13-Nov06 Oct13-Nov06 Oct13-Nov06 Oct24-Nov28 Oct18-Nov22
Administering Windows Networks P8,000/54hrs	1:30-4:30 1:30-4:30 6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F M-F Sat Sun	Oct20-Nov12 Nov17-Dec10 Nov17-Dec12 Nov08-Dec20 Nov09-Dec21
Network Infrastructure P8,000/48hrs	6:00-9:00 6:00-9:00 8:00-3:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Oct06-Nov06 Nov17-Dec16 Oct04-Nov29
Linux System Administration (Linux +) P6,000/45hrs	9:00-12:00 9:00-12:00 8:00-6:00	M-F M-F Sat	Oct06-Oct24 Sep15-Oct03 Oct04-Nov08
Linux Network Administration P5,000/30hrs	1:30-6:00 8:00-5:00	M-F Sun	Sep22-Oct06 Sep21-Oct12
LINUX Internet Caching Servers (SQUID) P2,000/8hrs	8:30-5:00 8:30-5:00	Wed Fri	Sept7 Sept9
Introduction to Oracle 9i SQL P8,500/60hrs	8:30-12:30 8:30-12:30 1:30-5:30 1:30-5:30 8:00-6:00 6:00-9:00	M-Th M-Th MTThF MTThF Sat M-Th	Oct06-Oct29 Nov03-Nov26 Oct03-Oct30 Nov03-Nov27 Sep20-Nov29 Sep22-Oct23
Enhance Web Page Designing HTML P5,600/30hrs	1:30-4:30 1:30-4:30	T-F T-F	Oct14-Oct31 Nov04-Nov23
CISCO 2 P8,000/70hrs	1:00-4:00 8:00-3:00 8:00-6:00	MTTh Sat Sun	Sep16-Oct28 Oct18-Dec13 Oct19-Dec14
CISCO 3 P8,000/70hrs	6:30-8:30	MTTH	Sep16-Nov06

ELECTRONICS

Basic Electronics P3,900/36hrs	8:00-5:00 8:00-12:00 8:00-12:00 1:00-5:00 1:00-6:00 6:30-8:30 5:30-8:30	Sat M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th M-Th	Oct04-Nov08 Sep29-Oct13 Oct20-Nov03 Sep29-Oct13 Oct20-Nov03 Sep29-Oct16 Oct20-Nov06
Microcomputer Hardware Fundamentals P4,300/36hrs	8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-12:00 1:00-5:00 1:00-6:00 5:30-9:00	Sat Fri MWTh M-Th M-th M-Thi	Oct04-Nov08 Oct03-Nov07 Oct06-Oct23 Sep29-Oct13 Oct20-Nov03 Oct20-Nov05
Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	8:00-5:00 5:30-9:00 1:30-5:00 1:30-5:00	Sat M-Th M-Th M-Th	Oct04-Nov08 Sep29-Oct14 Oct20-Nov04 Sep29-Oct14
Advanced Microcomputer Hardware Servicing P4,500/35hrs	8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 6:30-9:00	Sat Fri M-Th	Oct04-Nov08 Oct03-Nov07 Oct20-Nov04
TV& Monitor Servicing P3,900/36hrs	6:30-8:30 6:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F M-F Sat	Oct20-Nov05 Sep29-Oct14 Oct04-Nov08
Practical Cellular Phone Servicing P4,800/27hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-6:00	M-F Sat	Oct20-Oct30 Nov15-Dec06
Home Video Editing P3,300/16hrs	8:00-12:00	Sat	Oct11-Nov06
Electronic Project Processing & Fab. P3,900/36hrs	6:30-8:30	M-F	Sep29-Oct14

AUTOMOTIVE/REF & AIR-CON

Basic Driving Course P6,000/16hrs	1:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat Sun	Sep29-Oct24 Sep20-Oct11 Sep20-Oct11
Auto Engine Electrical P3,000/42hrs	9:00-12:00 2:00-5:00 6:30-8:30	M-F M-F M-F	Sep29-Oct16 Sep29-Oct16 Sep29-Oct16
Auto Body Electrical P3,600/48hrs	9:00-12:00 2:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th	Sep29-Oct23 Sep29-Oct23
Gas Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	9:00-12:00 6:30-8:30 8:00-6:00	M-F M-F Sat	Sep29-Oct24 Sep29-Oct24 Sep20-Nov15
Diesel Engine Mechanic P4,200/60hrs	2:00-5:00 8:00-6:00	M-F Sat	Sep29-Oct24 Sep20-Nov16
Basic Car Maintenance P2,800/30hrs	2:00-5:00	M-F	Sep29-Oct20
Underchassis Mechanic P3,900/60hrs	1:00-6:00	M-F	Sep29-Oct24
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing P4,200/48hrs	9:00-12:00 6:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Sep29-Oct23 Sep29-Oct23 Oct04-Nov15
Refrigeration & Air conditioning Mechanic P4,600/60hrs	9:00-12:00 2:00-6:00 6:30-8:30	M-Th M-Th M-Th	Oct20-Nov20 Oct20-Nov20 Oct08-Nov06
Automatic Transmission Mechanic P4,200.00/60hrs	8:00-5:00	Sat	Sep27-Nov22

ELECTRICAL

Industrial Electrician P4,500/66hrs	8:30-12:00 1:30-5:00 5:30-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th M-Th Sat Sun	Oct13-Nov13 Oct13-Nov13 Oct13-Nov13 Oct18-Dec1 Oct19-Dec1
Building Wiring Installation & Maintenance P4,500/60hrs	1:30-5:00 6:30-9:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th M-Th Sat	Oct13-Nov1 Oct13-Nov1 Oct18-Dec1
Adv. Industrial Motor Controls P4,500/60hrs	6:30-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat Sun	Oct13-Nov2 Oct18-Dec1 Oct19-Dec1
AutoCAD P4,800/72hrs	6:30-9:00 8:00-5:00 8:00-5:00 8:30-12:00 1:30-5:00	M-Th Sat Sun MTTHF M-Th	Oct13-Nov21 Oct18-Dec2 Oct19-Dec2 Oct13-Nov21 Oct13-Nov21
Electrical Control Wiring Installer & Troubleshooter	6:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-Th Sat	Oct13-Nov1 Nov08-Dec1

INSTRUMENTATION

Pneumatic Industrial Controls P4,200/42hrs	6:30-8:30	M-F	Sep29-Oct17
Electro-Pneumatics P4,200/42hrs	5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-F Sat	Oct20-Nov07 Sep27-Nov01
Basic PLC P4,200/42hrs	6:30-8:30 5:30-8:30 8:00-4:00	M-F M-F Sat	Sep29-Oct17 Oct20-Nov17 Sep27-Nov01
Calibration For Process Instrumentation P4,200/36hrs	6:30-8:30 9:00-4:00	M-F Sat	Sep29-Oct17 Sep27-Nov01
Industrial Process Controls P4,200/36hrs	6:30-8:30	M-F	Oct20-Nov05
Process Automation Course P7,600/72hrs	6:30-8:30	M-F	Sep29-Nov07
Machine Automation Course P10,800/126hrs	6:30-8:30	M-F	Sep29-Nov21

MECHANICAL

Lathe Machine Operation P6,000/40hrs	6:00-9:00 8:00-5:00	MTThF Sat	Sep29-Oct14 Oct04-Nov01
Milling Machine Operation P5,000/40hrs	6:00-9:00 8:00-6:00	MTThF Sat	Sep29-Oct14 Oct04-Nov01
Basic CAD/CAM P3,500/40hrs	8:00-5:00	Sat	Sep27-Oct28
Gas Welding P3,600/40hrs	6:30-8:30 8:00-5:00	M-F Sat	Sep29-Oct16 Oct04-Nov01
CNC Milling Programming	8:00-6:00	SAT	Oct04-Nov01

APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Enhancing Communication Skills P3,000/21hrs	9:00-6:00	Sat	Oct04-Oct18
Creating Preventive Maintenance Systems P3,000/21hrs	9:00-6:00	Sat	Oct04-Oct18

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Call of prison

HE NEVER thought the call of nature would send him to jail. Armando Sagum, 39, was urinating behind an electric post on Friday night on V. Mapa street, Sta. Mesa, Manila, when two policemen saw him. PO2 Richard Limuco and PO2 Julian Tangan of the Western Police District intelligence unit said they accosted Sagum for violation of a city ordinance. During the inspection, Sagum also yielded a sachet containing shabu. He is now detained at the WPD headquarters. *Tarra Quismundo*

Trigger-happy

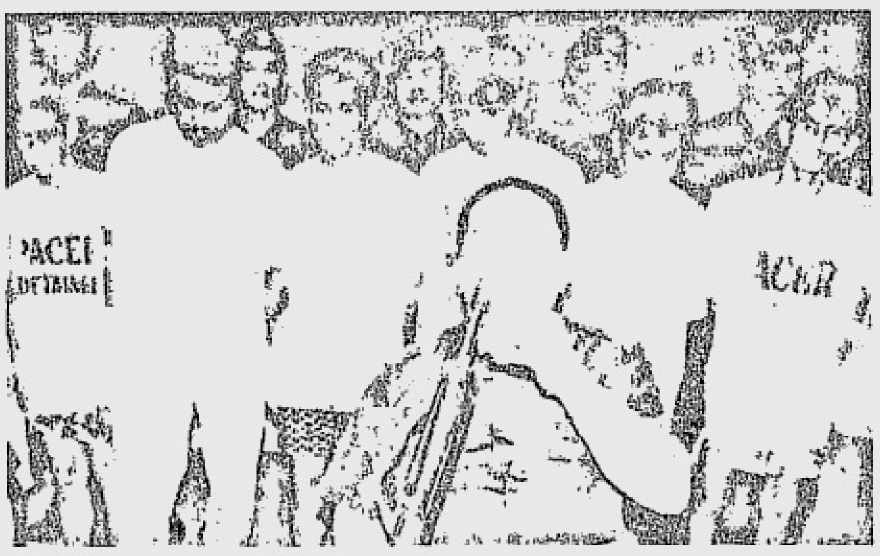
THREE men were arrested yesterday for firing unlicensed guns during a drinking spree in Parola Compound, Binondo, Manila. SPO4 Ruben Roman of Western Police District Sation 11 said they received a call from residents at 4:50 a.m. complaining about a group of men who were firing their guns into the air. Roman said five policemen went to the area and were met with bullets. A brief firefight ensued but the policemen prevailed and arrested the three suspects whom they identified as Raymundo Sildo, 24, Jerry Sicat, 33, and Jonathan Pusana. *Tarra Quismundo*

2 inmates die

THE SQUALID conditions inside the Quezon City Jail has again taken a toll on its inmates in a span of just four days. Inmate Mike Sofronio died on Sept. 4 due to tubercolosis, while Madz Uzman died yesterday due to respiratory ailment. Uzman had been confined for three days at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City. Police said the conditions of the two inmates were possibly compounded by the poor sanitary conditions inside the city jail. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Shot dead in QC

A STILL unidentified man was shot dead the other night after a scuffle allegedly erupted between patrolling policemen from the Central Police District and a group of men in Quezon City. The man was described as about 30-35 years old, 5'2" in height and slim build. Investigators said he had the name "OBET" tattooed on his left shoulder. Police said the suspect, who was then with a group of men, had smashed the windows of a police car parked along Mindanao Avenue in a bid to get an M16 assault rifle inside the car. The suspect was shot when the policemen ran after the group of men. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*



PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. presents to media Sunday the eight suspects in the kidnapping of a Caloocan businesswoman. RUDY ESPERAS

8 suspects in Caloocan trader's kidnap nabbed

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE have arrested eight men who allegedly kidnapped a businesswoman in Caloocan City late last month.

Authorities could not tell if victim Ruvelyn Chua had paid ransom before she and her two companions were rescued in Gapan, Nueva Ecija, on Aug. 29.

Members of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team initially arrested Christopher and Mamerto Flores, Armando Domingo, and Michael Butuhan in Nueva Ecija.

They later arrested Roderick Varilla, Lodie Flores, Junjie Garduce, and Marlon Flores in separate operations in Bulacan and Caloocan.

Nine other members of the kidnap-for-ransom gang remain at large, said Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

Recovered from the suspects' safe house were a US carbine cal. 30 M2, a 5.567 revolver, a stun gun, cellular phones and ammunition.

Pacer chief Senior Supt. Alan Purisima said the suspects were the same group that abducted one Aurora Yu in Caloocan last June.

Gold worth P3.5M stolen

By Tarra Quismundo

MORE than six kilograms of gold worth P3.5 million was stolen in a highway robbery in Bulacan yesterday.

PO1 Jun Bernardo of Western Police District Station 7 said seven armed robbers intercepted a silver Mitsubishi L-300 van, with plate number XAX 189, while entering McArthur Highway around 11 a.m.

Inside the van were Jose Lim, 52, who owns Pear Jewelry Store in Mandaluyong, his helpers Pedro and Rodolfo Cabugot, driver William Golez, and security man Ernesto Morales.

Lim had just come from a shop in Barangay Sta. Rosa 1 in Marilao, where he had some gold jewelry processed.

Initial investigation revealed that the suspects, who were riding two owner-type jeeps and a car, flagged down Lim's van and identified themselves as policemen.

Three of the suspects forcibly entered the van, while the two others took the bag containing the gold at the back of the van, Bernardo said.

A passerby who saw the robbery called up the Bulacan police which immediately responded. Upon seeing them, the suspects drove off to different directions.

Around 12 noon, the policemen caught up with the vehicles at Rizal Avenue corner R. Papa. Five of the seven suspects were arrested, including alleged retired policeman Alvino Pedria Sr., 54; Peter Ronald Ignacio, 29; Ryan de Leon, 26; Ricardo Silan, 37; and Alejandro Abad, 45.

The loot is in the possession of the two other suspects who got away, police said.

Bus detectives fail to deter robbers

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

NOT EVEN the random deployment of uniformed policemen on buses, which began last week, could deter bus robbers from striking.

On Saturday afternoon, three robbers held up the passengers of a bus in Quezon City and escaped with more than P1,000 in cash and three expensive cellphones.

Police said the robbers, armed with a handgun and knives, posed as passengers of a Mayamy Bus about 3:30 p.m. last Saturday.

The bus was traversing Commonwealth Avenue toward Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue. When it reached the Ever Gotesco Commonwealth Mall, the three stood up and announced the holdup.

The robbers first took P850 from bus conductor Noel Garte and then took the cellphones of Marites Suyan, Rosemarie Ruado, and a 17-year-old girl passenger. The robbers also took P350 from Ruado and the girl.

The robbers got off upon reaching the Elliptical Road.

The robbery came two days after five robbers held up a bus in Valenzuela City. The robbers were also armed with knives and a handgun.

Uniformed policemen were ordered deployed last week on buses to thwart robbery incidents. But officials said they might not have enough men to guard all buses.

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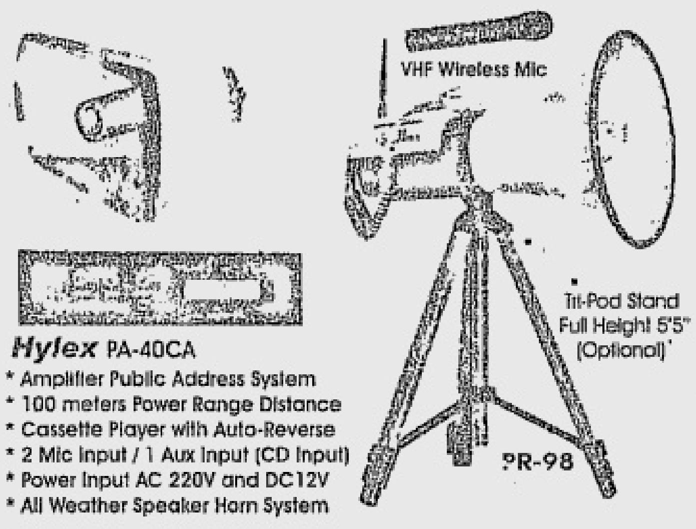

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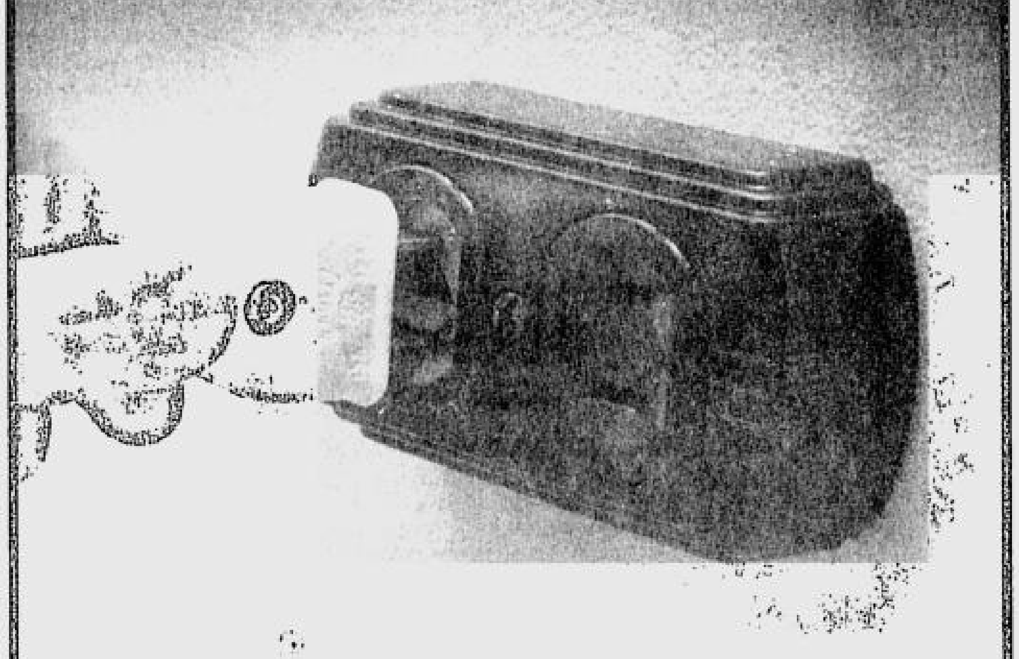

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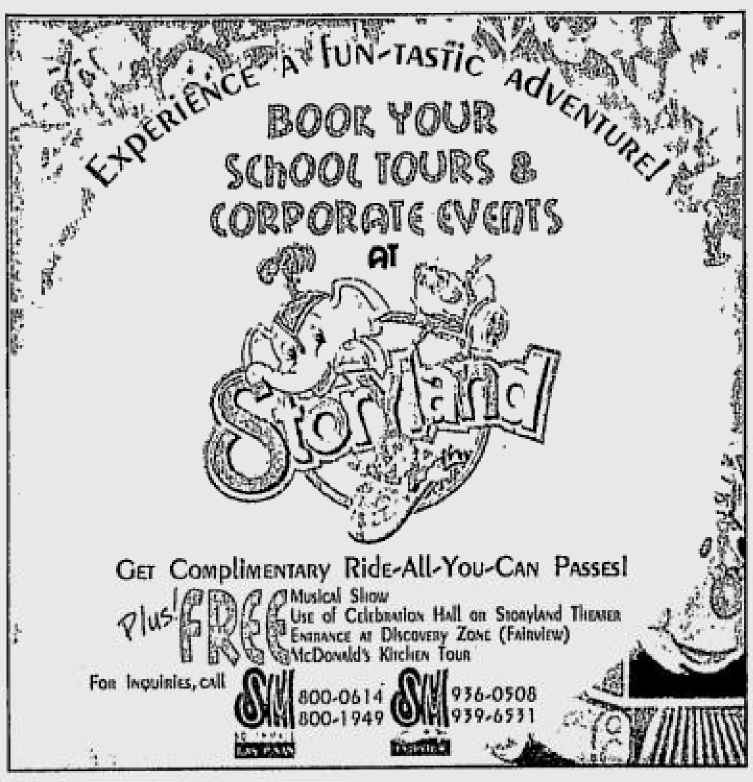
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Barangay captains now allowed to carry guns

By Christian V. Esguerra

BARANGAY captains can now carry and use guns in the fight against street crimes.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday said he had approved the implementing guidelines allowing selected local officials to carry firearms.

Under the implementing rules and regulations Ebdane signed last week, barangay captains could carry licensed firearms while patrolling their areas.

Ebdane said guns could be a 22- or 38-caliber revolver or a 9-mm pistol.

But he clarified that only barangay chairpersons were covered by the provision.

"We don't want to expand (the provision to cover) barangay tanods (watchmen) because it might become a bad practice," he said in a press conference.

Still, barangay captains would be covered by strict guidelines against possible abuses, he said.

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BARANGAY/ A22

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SPORTS

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TENNIS: US Open 2003; 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Take another look at the men's singles and women's doubles final from Arthur Ashe Stadium.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Raiders vs Titans; 7:30 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); ESPN—Gridiron action goes underway as AFC powers Oakland and Tennessee tangle in this opening day encounter.

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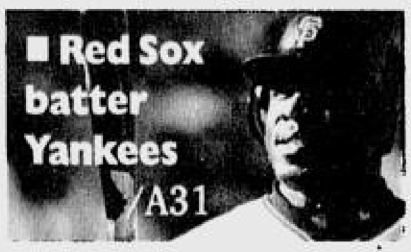

■ Red Sox batter Yankees /A31

EJ Feihl of Alaska (left) fouls a driving Tim McLary of Coca-Cola during their game last night. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Tigers demolish out-of-form Aces

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA found just enough energy to pounce on a sluggish Alaska crew last night, 103-82, in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Coming off a short rest after losing the Invitational championship series against the Aces less than two weeks ago, the Tigers admittedly wrestled with fatigue to get the job done as early as the second period.

"We're very tired so I challenged my players to find the enthusiasm to come out as if we're coming from a long break," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

After the Invitational debacle, the Tigers made do with a short four-day break before plunging into a strenuous workout to prepare for the season-ending conference.

"You can just imagine how lethargic we felt. But we can't dwell on that, so we tried to look fresh even if we we're not," said Reyes.

The Tigers beat the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs in their debut last week, and by routing the Aces, Reyes and his troops grabbed a share of the lead with Barangay Ginebra at 2-0 in Group B.

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Philsports)*
5 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull

In the second game, Sta. Lucia Realty got away with a scary 92-87 win over Shell to grab the lead in the Group A. The Realtors followed up their conquest of the Aces and climbed to 2-0 while the Turbochargers fell to 1-1.

Artemus McClary and rookie Reynel Hugnatan provided the boost the Tigers needed as they joined hands in offense in the second period for a 56-35 spread which Coca-Cola did not relinquish until the end.

The Aces, who dropped their second straight outing, have not lost by more than 20 points in almost one and a half years.

The last time they did was in March last year during the eliminations of the Governor's Cup. In that game, also against the Tigers, the Aces dropped a 79-53 decision.

Rookie Mike Cortez and John Arigo had their off-night as both registered season lows in point production.

The usually high-scoring Arigo and Cortez contributed only two points each in 16 minutes of action and were fielded sparingly in the second half.

Import Chris Carrawell was also a disappointing sight on the floor for the second game in a row.

Despite an almost no-relief game, Carrawell scored only 17 points.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 100—McClary 30, Hugnatan 12, Reavis 10, Cariaso 10, Junio 8, Avenido 5, Wainwright 5, Abarrientos 5, Morano 4, Antonio 3, Chia 2, Bolado 2.

ALASKA 82—Carrawell 17, Allado 14, Padilla 10, Feihl 9, Castro 5, Peek 5, Cortez 2, Arigo 2, Duat 2, Cablay 0, Tejada 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 24-16, 56-35, 85-58, 103-82.

STA. LUCIA 92— James 27, Aquino 26, Espino 18, Tan, 7, Victolero 5, Mendoza 4, Adriano 3, Francisco 2, Ong 0.

SHELL 87—Webber 19, Laure 14, Dela Cruz 13, Calaguio 13, Bajar 10, Hrabak 6, Tubid 5, Singson 5, Jackson 2.

Quarters: 26-17, 39-45, 66-54, 92-87.

Chen rules Malaysia badminton

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia—China's Chen Hong won the men's singles title at the Malaysia Open badminton tournament Sunday with a straight-sets 15-9, 15-5 victory over Malaysian national champion Lee Chong Wei.

The world No. 1 won easily in just over half-an-hour, capitalizing on Lee's numerous unforced errors during the final at the Likas Indoor Stadium in Sabah state on Borneo island.

Chen's victory at the US$120,000 tournament, which follows his triumph last month at the Singapore Open, dashed the 21-year-old Lee's hopes of bagging his first international title.

In the women's singles final, China's Zhou Mi defeated Camilla Martin of Denmark 11-1, 7-11, 11-5.

World title holders Kim Dong-Moon and Ra Kyung-Min of South Korea cruised to a 15-6, 15-5 victory over Britain's Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms in the mixed doubles. *AP*

Air Jordan bucks offer to join Charlotte Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Retired NBA superstar Michael Jordan has nixed an offer to join the expansion Charlotte team.

Charlotte Bobcats owner Robert Johnson said Jordan is free to pursue any offers he might have from another team.

The 40-year-old Jordan has been in talks with Charlotte since he and the Washington Wizards decided to end their relationship three months ago. Jordan was initially attracted to the Bobcats because he is from North Carolina where he led the Tar Heels team to a US collegiate titles.

Jordan retired at the end of last season after playing in 82 games and averaging 20 points. *AFP*

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Tams stop Maroons, in solo 2nd

Archers-Bulldogs match reset

GAME TODAY ***(Makati Coliseum)***
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
GAMES THURSDAY ***(Araneta Coliseum)***
1:30 p.m.—Adamson vs FEU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs UE (Srs)
5 p.m.—UST vs UE (Jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

FAR Eastern University, the 1997 champion, recovered just in time to repulse University of the Philippines, 67-61, and seize solo second in the UAAP men's basketball championship yesterday at the Loyola Gym.

Bewildered by the Maroons' aggressive stand, the Tamaraws leaned on Dennis Miranda, Mark Isip and Arwind Santos in the homestretch to snap a two-game losing streak and notch their ninth win in 12 outings.

The crucial clash between four-time titlist La Salle (6-5) and Adamson (5-6) was reset today at the Makati Coliseum following a freak accident that happened during the pre-game round robin of both squads.

Joel Hate, Adamson's burly defender, damaged the backboard after a one-handed slam. The incident delayed the other senior game on schedule.

UP Prof. Francis "Kiko" Diaz, head of the UAAP basketball technical committee, said that the incident rendered the court unplayable.

Following a meeting attended by Diaz, Commissioner Joe Lipa and board members as well as coaches Franz Pumaren and Luigi Trillo, it was agreed that the match will be held today.

"All ticket holders who failed to get their refund will be allowed to see the game," Diaz said. He also stressed that the league tried but failed to find a replacement venue so that the game would not be postponed."

The junior encounter between Adamson (8-2) and La Salle-Zobel (6-3), was transferred to the nearby Moro Lorenzo Sports Complex.

Youthful slotman JayR Reyes capped a sizzling UP comeback with a five-point blast, including a three-point play off James Razon, 54-54, four minutes remaining, but the Tamaraws weren't ready to crumble.

Miranda triggered FEU's blazing finish with a three-point play off Toti Almeda even as Isip and Santos also scored for a closing 8-1 blast.

"We need this kind of games going into the final round," said FEU coach Koy Banal. The Tamaraws still need to beat Adamson and FEU in order to avoid complication for the twice-to-beat advantage in the crossover semis.

The 6-foot-7 Reyes and the 5-foot-10 rookie Marvin Cruz stood at the forefront of a fluid attack in the second quarter to give the Maroons a 39-25 lead, which eventually crumbled when the Tamaraws found their range.

A 25-point explosion in the third period powered FEU to a 47-42 third quarter lead, an advantage they padded to 52-43.

Scores:

First Game (Jrs)

UPIS 98—Villanueva C. 18, Villanueva 17, Maniego 11, Aranas 10, Oliveros 8, Bautista 8, Gonzales 7, Lazo 6, Sanchez 6, Olan 5, Nierra 2, Lapuz 0.

NU 43—Piamonte 16, Co 12, Conopio 6, Balabbo 6, Valencia 2, De Leon 1, Gawson 0, Bernabe 0.

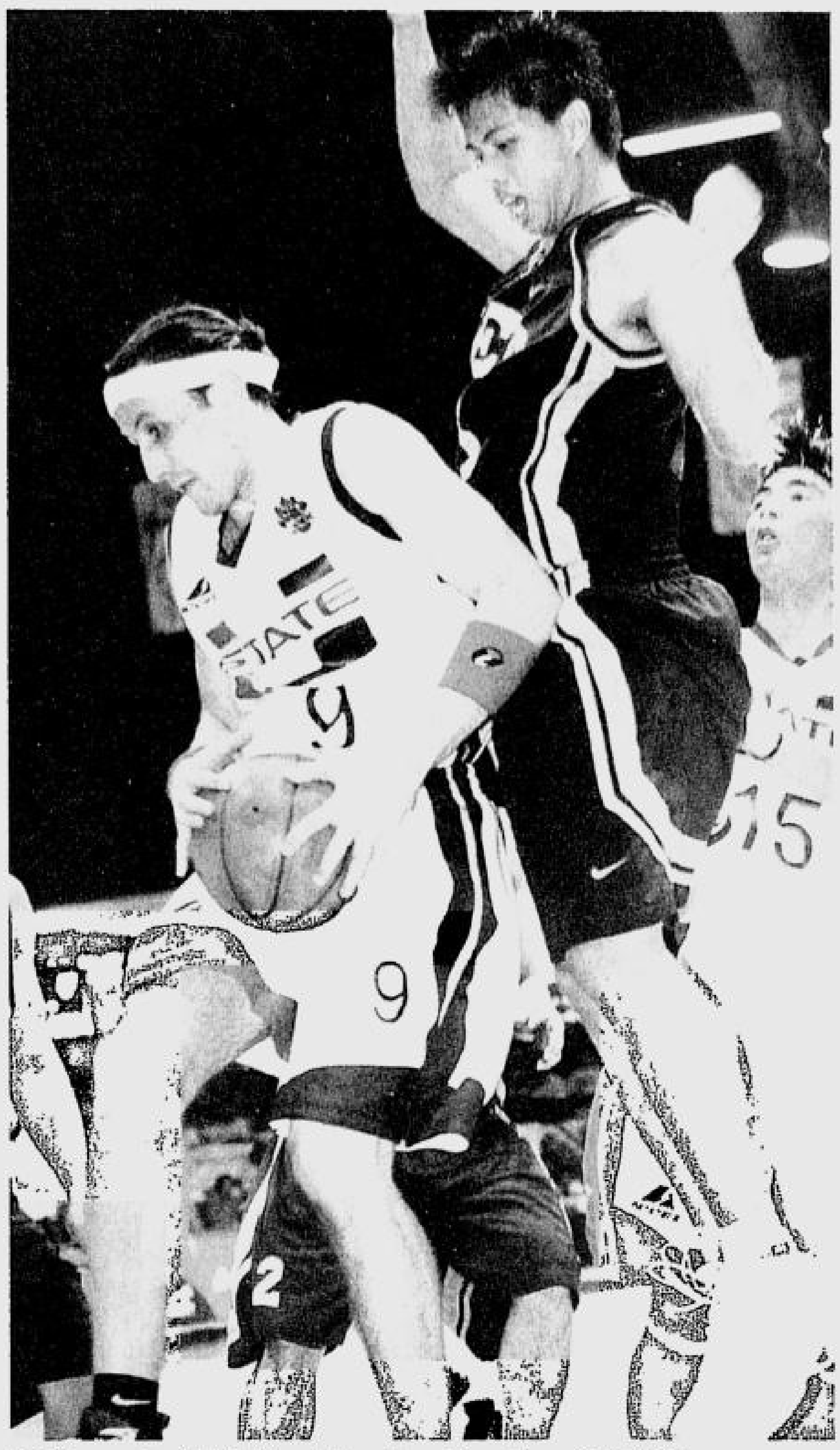
Quarters: 27-4, 50-16, 69-30, 98-43.

Second Game (Srs)

FEU 67—Santos 15, Miranda 9, Jones 8, Catli 6, Chan 5, Yabut 4, Rizada 4, Razon 4, Sinco 2, Sierra 0.

UP 61—Cruz 16, Reyes 15, Almeda 15, Bornancin 7, Buyco 4, David 3, Manlapuz 1, Cervantes 0, Tablque 0, Ferrer 0, Ibanes 0.

Quarters: 12-11, 22-31, 47-42, 67-61.



ROB Bornancin of UP (left) grabs the rebound from Cezar Catli of FEU. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Benedict, Lyceum fives stay unbeaten

ST. BENEDICT College and defending champion Lyceum of the Philippines held on to the top two slots in the 34th WNCAA-adidas seniors basketball tournament after beating separate rivals Saturday at the St. Scholastica's College gym.

SBC remained unbeaten in five starts after whipping St. Scholastica's, 67-44, while Lyceum crushed Assumption College, 143-12, for a second-best 4-0 slate.

In seniors' volleyball at the Lyceum gym, defending champion Lyceum and Rizal Technological University are pacing the field with 4-0 cards after similar straight-set victories.

Lyceum downed Assumption, 25-5, 25-13, 25-7, while RTU stopped College of Saint Benilde, 25-16, 25-14, 25-11.

The 34th WNCAA-adidas is being supported by Gold's Gym, Procter and Gamble, Goldilock's, Rustan's Essences, Café Lupe, Island Cove Resorts, Cadbury, RPN 9 and Monster Radio RX 93.1.

In midgets' basketball, 33rd season winner Assumption grabbed the lead following its 38-35 conquest of Chiang Kai Shek College, which is still winless in two games.

Meanwhile, St. Scholastica's leads the juniors division at 4-0 after it thumped Assumption, 69-43.

CSB climbed to solo third in the seniors event with a 102-23 thrashing of Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manilá while host Siena College of Quezon City subdued University of the Assumption-Pampanga, 73-65, for a 3-2 card.

Other results: UA-P d. Miriam, 25-19, 25-14, 25-18, St. Scholastica's d. EAC-M, 25-13, 25-16, 25-19 (seniors).

Bench warmer keys St. Francis win

GAMES TODAY ***(Tanduay Gym)***
10:30 a.m.—EAC vs La Salle-Dasmariñas
12 nn—La Salle-Manila vs Olivarez College
1:30 p.m.—St. Francis vs PSBA

SELDOM-USED Al Vergara came off the bench to score two big baskets as defending champion St. Francis of Assisi turned back La Salle-Dasmariñas, 74-65, Saturday in the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association men's basketball tournament at the Tanduay gym.

Vergara, sent into the fray in place of rookie point guard Christopher Concepcion with five minutes left, scored on a pass by Ranidel de Ocampo and then on a breakaway drive as the unbeaten Doves shattered 61-61 deadlock to stay in front for good.

The two baskets were Vergara's only production for the game, but they were enough to help the Doves post their seventh straight triumph in the tournament.

Vergara's heroics almost overshadowed the efforts of De Ocampo, who topscored for the Doves with 20 points.

After Vergara's twin strikes, the 6-foot-5 De Ocampo took over, banging in a triple and a layup to put the Doves out of reach, 72-63.

Jorge de la Cruz hit 17 points as the National College of Business and Arts Wildcats defeated the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars, 88-83.

In the third game, Emilio Aguinaldo College walloped Olivarez College, 90-53.

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The sins of Rep. Harry Angping

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NOTHING wrong or strange with Boy Codiñera complaining about the state of Philippine sports.

Almost everybody here, after all, continues to be frustrated with our national sporting affairs.

But when Codiñera, a local ballgame great, loses his cool, when his voice cracks in trying to elevate his case, you can't help but pause and listen.

Being an active participant in the Filipino athlete's endless misadventures in the international field, Codiñera, more or less, knows whereof he speaks.

Boy C. minces no words in crying over what he calls the rotten, sorry leadership in the national softball association.

No, he doesn't sob, no choking tears between pauses, but it's easy to sense this big, tough guy is hurting, crying deep inside.

For one, he's also blaming himself.

He had been mainly instrumental in elevating a politician, Rep. Harry Angping of the 3rd District of Manila, to the presidency of the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines (Asa-Phil.).

***

Codiñera, a seasoned cop, could not get over the fact that he had allowed himself to be taken for a ride.

Another thing: he's totally helpless, powerless in trying to oust Angping now from the top softball post.

So Boy C. cries his heart out. In a signed manifesto entitled "The Sins of Harry Angping," he makes public the alleged Angping misdeeds "so the entire softball community would know what exactly is going on within the organization."

Here: 1) Codiñera has accused Angping of reneging on his promise to raise P10 million as funding for Asa-Phil; 2) Codiñera claimed Angping fooled the Asa-Phil general assembly by making officials believe the Philippines would host the 2003 Asian championships with a budget of P5 million; 3) Codiñera said Angping tried to perpetuate himself in office by amending the Asa-Phil constitution during a general assembly last January, a move prevented with the walkout of Codiñera's group.

***

Says Codiñera: "When Angping took his oath of office, he announced before the board he would raise P10 million by January 2003. Up to this day, there's nothing. In a meeting with Asian softball officials in China last December, he announced in the presence of International Softball Federation president Don Porter that the Philippines would host the 2003 Asian Softball championships for men and women in May this year. When asked what would happen if the Philippine Sports Commission could not give the amount, he said: '*Sagot ko* (Leave it to me).' Why did he have to brag before us in the Asa-Phil general assembly that he would singularly shoulder the funding for the Asian championships? *Tapos ganun lang pala ang kalalabasan*."

***

Oops, Codiñera is not through yet.

"To rub salt on the wound, Angping brought 60 barangay chairmen on a pleasure trip to Hong Kong the other week," Codiñera says. "We don't care what he does, it's his own money he's spending. But our players, mainly the Blu Girls who have been training long and hard for the Asian series, feel betrayed."

As a final blow, Codiñera adds: 'When it comes to politics, he's always ready to spend millions, but when it's for the sake of softball, he could not spare even a cent. We've built a reputation as an excellent host of international softball championships, he should remember how Mayor Mario Raymundo hosted the 1992 world championships."

Poor Boy C., he has been sulking over his beer. He's been losing sleep.

He swears he had never thought Angping would turn into a good-for-nothing leader.

Anyway, Codiñera now says athletes are mulling a protest rally against Angping.

Fine, but knowing Angping, a sweet-tongued, dyed-in-the-wool politician, he could mount an even bigger rally in praise of what he has done for Philippine softball.

All this sleek operator has to do is snap his fingers and those barangay chiefs he had wined and dined in Hong Kong, with *asungots* in tow, would be there, placards in hand, to praise Representative Angping to high heaven.

Other than cheat, politicians also breed bootlickers, don't they?

ABC TILT

Wang refuses to join China 5

BEIJING—Los Angeles Clipper Wang Zhizhi has decided not to jeopardize his multimillion dollar NBA contract and will not return to China's national team to play in this month's Asian Basketball Championships, state press said Sunday.

Wang, China's first-ever player in the world's most prestigious basketball league, has cited his relationship with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) as the main reason that he cannot return to China, the *Titan Sports Weekly* reported.

The 7-foot power forward was formerly a member of the military's Bayi Rockets and as an enlisted member of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) he does not travel with an ordinary passport, the paper said.

According to the paper, the PLA refused to approve Wang's demobilization so that he could obtain a civilian passport and continue his NBA career.

The refusal came despite efforts by the China Basketball Association to bring Wang back to the national team, which will vie for Asia's only spot at the 2004 Athens Olympics during the Sept 23-Oct 3 Asian Basketball Championships in Harbin, China.

Last year, Wang refused to return to China's national team to play in the World Championships and the Asian Games because the CBA said he would have had to forgo his training in the United States.

Without Wang the Chinese national side made a poor showing at the World Championships and lost their perennial Asian crown to South Korea at the Asian Games.

During his altercation with the CBA last year, widespread press reports said Wang was on the brink of defecting to the United States, reports he later adamantly denied.

Wang, 26, led the Bayi Rockets to six straight Chinese Basketball League titles and was a mainstay of the national team for years.

He is part of China's "Walking Great Wall" of NBA centers that also includes Houston Rocket sensation Yao Ming and Toronto Raptors center Menke Bateer. *AFP*

WANG (right) battles for a rebound against Sacramento's Vlade Divac in file photo. AFP

Nomura Cuppers banner Riviera Open cast today

FRESH from their Nomura Cup campaign in Queensland, Australia, Jerome Delariarte and his national teammates will be competing against each other in the second Riviera amateur golf championship starting today at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

Delariarte's teammates in the Nomura trip where they finished tied for fifth, Juvic Pagunsan, Jay Bayron and Marvin Dumandan, will all be there to challenge him for the top plum in the 72-hole championship division.

Bayron is actually the defending champion but he won the title last year when both Delariarte and Pagunsan were not around since they had to fly to Busan, Korea, to prepare for the Asian Games.

Even Dumandan will make the repeat bid of Bayron very tough since he had been training at Riviera for the past two years already.

More than a hundred players have signed up for the tourney sponsored by Trans-National Diversified Group, Wide Wide World Express, Mizuno, Pacsports and Handog Industrial Corp.

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Sanchez bounces back

INTERNATIONAL Master-candidate Joseph Sanchez bounced back from a fifth round defeat by beating Spain's Ignacio Gonzales Saturday night to share 4th to 13th places after the sixth round of the Open International de Ajedrez VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea chess championship at the Sports Complex in Madrid, Spain.

With the victory, the 32-year-old Sanchez, who topped this year's Milano Open, now has five wins and one loss for a total of 5.0 points, the same output of erstwhile solo leader FM Santiago-Alonso, IM Jose Rodrigo and Jose Cabanes of Spain, GM Bogdan Lalic of England, IM Gergios Souleidis of Greece, IM Sasha Belezky of Ukraine, IM Ricardo Leyva of Cuba, IM Salvador Alonso and Matina Yadarola of Argentina.

But the other Filipino in the tournament, Grandmaster-candidate Mark Paragua was forced to a draw by Fide Master Gabriel Huerta of Spain.

Paragua, the 1998 world rapid under-14 champion, totalled 4.5 points to be in a big logjam for 14th to 28th places.

Top seed IM Jan Gustaffson of Germany, IM Javier Carnero of Spain and IM Renier Vasquez of Cuba shared the lead with identical 5.5 points. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

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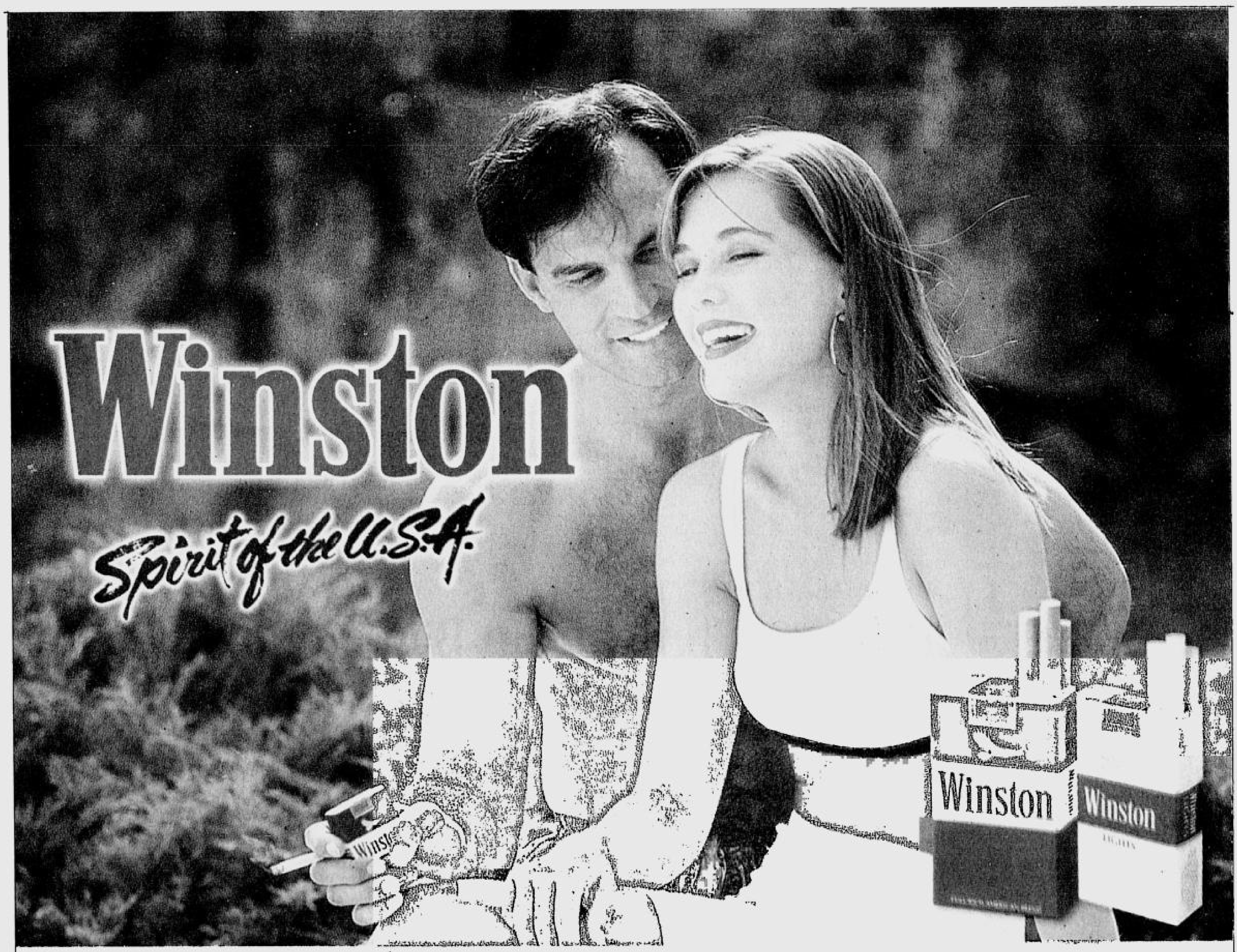

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CLIJSTERS (right) and Henin during the victory ceremony. AFP

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"I was disappointed with my performance, but I played an opponent who was just the best today … and the best of the whole tournament."

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But she stressed how eager she was to make up for the latest anti-climax.

Asked if it would become more and more difficult to win a slam with each passing opportunity, she told reporters: "I don't know—I would love to play some more grand slam finals."

Crowned world No.1 last month on the back of a consistent year, she spent much of the Open deflecting criticism that she did not deserve the honor until she had won a grand slam.

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Belgian underdog defies fatigue, lifts US Open title

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It was a performance that won the 21-year-old a cool $1 million but, to Henin-Hardenne, it was priceless.

"It is such a great feeling. I am so happy right now … two grand slams in the same year I can't believe it," she said.

"I tell you, I am the happiest woman in the world right now."

"It has been a terrific two weeks." Never mind that a representative of sponsor JP Morgan Chase blundered by asking the crowd to congratulate "Christine" Henin-Hardenne before the trophy presentation.

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But 21-year-old Henin-Hardenne is hewn from tougher stuff than that.

"I went to sleep at 3:45 a.m. and then I was awake at 8:30 a.m.," she said of her preparation.

"Tried to sleep a little bit more until 11:30 a.m. but it was very hard because the match was still in my mind.

"But I think the trainers and the doctors did a great job. I believed in my chances. I went on the court to win the match and it worked pretty good." The determination she showed comes as no surprise to anyone who knows her, for her sublime God-given talent is backed by a steely temperament.

It is a temperament that steered her to beat Clijsters in the final of the French Open earlier this year and one which on Saturday made Clijsters' world number one ranking appear a little more than an arithmetical error.

Clijsters had looked unstoppable throughout the tournament.

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In fairness, though, there are few players in the history of the sport who could share a spotlight with Henin-Hardenne when she is on form.

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Jaw-dropping backhand

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Rolling the ball crosscourt or down the line with equal grace and power, Henin-Hardenne raced into a 3-0 lead.

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It was the first set dropped by Clijsters in the entire tournament and the spell was well and truly broken. *Reuters*

HENIN-HARDENNE celebrates after beating Clijsters to win her first US Open title. AFP

MILO MARATHON

Dramatic finishes in Baguio qualifier

BAGUIO CITY—Crisanto Canillo barely outsprinted fellow veteran Daud Mama to the tape to rule the 20-kilometer qualifying run of the 27th Milo Marathon yesterday morning in Baguio City.

But the bigger drama took place in the women's side of the race.

Ermelita Castillo, a 19-year-old senior criminology student from the Baguio Colleges Foundation, collapsed a few meters from the finish line in Burnham Park but still managed to wind up third and qualify to the National Grand Finals in Metro Manila on Oct. 19.

Running in her very first 20-K race to prove herself to her athlete boyfriend, she picked herself up, crawled towards the line in full view of the astonished crowd and crossed it in the nick of time to secure third place.

"Dati kasing marathon runner ang ex ng boyfriend ko, kaya gusto kong patunayan na kaya ko rin 'yun," said Castillo after regaining her breath.

Defending champion Marychiel Minas turned the women's race into a one-woman affair and soloed it home to victory in Luzon's last regional qualifying run.

Minas, a 20-year-old track runner from the Benguet State University, seized the lead from the start and never looked back. She clocked 1:37.29 and pocketed P10,000

"Hindi ako sure na mananalo dahil kasali si Julie Watchorna. *Mas malakas sa akin iyon,"* said Minas, who finished second in the Manila Marathon earlier this year and 7th in the Milo finals last year.

Watchorna wound up fifth, and failed to qualify.

Mildred Sabiano, 23, from the Cordillera Career Development College, finished second to Minas with a time of 1:54.26, good for P6,000 and a seat in the national finals of the Milo Marathon, held in partnership this year with Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific , Adidas, Powerbar, MyGlobe, and the Department of Tourism.

US golfers fight back in Cup tiff

GANTON, England—Bill Haas, whose father and uncle each won the Walker Cup, began the American fightback in the 39th match on Saturday with a victory over Gary Wolstenholme which spurred the United States to a 7-5 halfway lead.

After Britain and Ireland had triumphed 3-1 in the foursomes, the Americans won five of the eight singles matches with two tied and just one lost and Haas led the turnaround.

Haas, 21-year-old son of 1975 winner Jay and nephew of 1985 winner Jerry, had already teamed up with Trip Kuehne for a 2 and 1 victory over Wolstenholme and Michael Skelton in the first of the foursomes to give the United States an early lead in the biennial match of amateur golfers.

But Britain and Ireland, winner of the last two matches in 1999 and 2001, won the next three in front of their own fans at Ganton Golf Club.

The Americans, who still have an overall 31-6 winning record over the hosts in a competition first played in 1922, needed something big from the youngest of the Haas golfing family. *AP*

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MILO MARATHON

Dramatic finishes in Baguio qualifier

BAGUIO CITY—Crisanto Canillo barely outsprinted fellow veteran Daud Mama to the tape to rule the 20-kilometer qualifying run of the 27th Milo Marathon yesterday morning in Baguio City.

But the bigger drama took place in the women's side of the race.

Ermelita Castillo, a 19-year-old senior criminology student from the Baguio Colleges Foundation, collapsed a few meters from the finish line in Burnham Park but still managed to wind up third and qualify to the National Grand Finals in Metro Manila on Oct. 19.

Running in her very first 20-K race to prove herself to her athlete boyfriend, she picked herself up, crawled towards the line in full view of the astonished crowd and crossed it in the nick of time to secure third place.

"Dati kasing marathon runner ang ex ng boyfriend ko, kaya gusto kong patunayan na kaya ko rin 'yun," said Castillo after regaining her breath.

Defending champion Marychiel Minas turned the women's race into a one-woman affair and soloed it home to victory in Luzon's last regional qualifying run.

Minas, a 20-year-old track runner from the Benguet State University, seized the lead from the start and never looked back. She clocked 1:37.29 and pocketed P10,000

"Hindi ako sure na mananalo dahil kasali si Julie Watchorna. *Mas malakas sa akin iyon,"* said Minas, who finished second in the Manila Marathon earlier this year and 7th in the Milo finals last year.

Watchorna wound up fifth, and failed to qualify.

Mildred Sabiano, 23, from the Cordillera Career Development College, finished second to Minas with a time of 1:54.26, good for P6,000 and a seat in the national finals of the Milo Marathon, held in partnership this year with Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific , Adidas, Powerbar, MyGlobe, and the Department of Tourism.

US golfers fight back in Cup tiff

GANTON, England—Bill Haas, whose father and uncle each won the Walker Cup, began the American fightback in the 39th match on Saturday with a victory over Gary Wolstenholme which spurred the United States to a 7-5 halfway lead.

After Britain and Ireland had triumphed 3-1 in the foursomes, the Americans won five of the eight singles matches with two tied and just one lost and Haas led the turnaround.

Haas, 21-year-old son of 1975 winner Jay and nephew of 1985 winner Jerry, had already teamed up with Trip Kuehne for a 2 and 1 victory over Wolstenholme and Michael Skelton in the first of the foursomes to give the United States an early lead in the biennial match of amateur golfers.

But Britain and Ireland, winner of the last two matches in 1999 and 2001, won the next three in front of their own fans at Ganton Golf Club.

The Americans, who still have an overall 31-6 winning record over the hosts in a competition first played in 1922, needed something big from the youngest of the Haas golfing family. *AP*

Rome edge a

CRANS-SUR-SI Switzerland—Ed Romero moved one round of becom the oldest winne ropean Tour when he opened stroke lead ove Els Saturday third round of th pean Masters.

Romero knocked Rober son off the top o position the tall all four rounds tained for two ro

Romero shot son is now third, ing him three sho

Romero is on Els 11-under and der. Englishmen Brian Davis were hind, level with of France.

If Romero wins of 49 years 52 d than the present ho

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s in defeat

ventually the pressure of her task negated the f superlative form which had carried her to inal in the previous six rounds.

t was almost a mirror image of her experience at nd Garros, when she lost, 6-0, 6-4, to Henin-denne in the final.

er semifinal defeat at the Australian Open in ary also sprung to mind all too readily.

hen, leading Serena Williams 5-1 in the final , she lost it 7-5 as another chance went beg-

think I was a little bit more nervous (than at nd Garros)," the 21-year-old said.

TANAKA acknowledges the gallery after a routine par on the 18th hole. REUTERS

Tanaka, tenacious, regains lead with eagle-spiked 67

TORONTO—Hidemichi Tanaka shot a 3-under 67 highlighted by an eagle on the par-5 17th to take a two-stroke lead over four players Saturday into the final round of the Canadian Open.

Tanaka, showing tenacity in his long game, hit a 3-wood from 258 yards within 6 feet on the 550-yard 17th to set up the eagle. He also had six birdies and five bogeys, the last on the difficult 18th, to finish at 7-under 203 on the hilly Hamilton Golf and Country Club course.

He finished 54 holes at 7-under 203 to regain the lead he had in the first round.

"It was great with a lot of birdies," he said. "But with a lot of wind, a little miss turned into bogeys. I was still thinking that I was at the top of the lead, so I was trying to be patient. I knew there was also tomorrow left."

American's Brad Faxon (66), Tom Pernice (65), Fred Funk (68) and second-round leader Charles Howell (70) are tied for second at 5-under, 205. Bob Tway is alone in sixth place at 206 following a 4-under 66.

Vijay Singh of Fiji shot a 65 to tie Pernice and Dennis Paulsen for low round of the day and move into a tie for seventh with Australia's Steve Allan, who carded a 69.

Masters champion Mike Weir of Canada managed an even-par 70 and is part of an eight-way tie for ninth place at 208.

Tanaka made five birdies on the front nine, including four in a row beginning at the par-4 second hole.

He also birdied the 16th, then eagled the 17th, but four bogeys kept him within reach of the rest of the field.

At 5 ft 6 in, Tanaka is considered the smallest player on the PGA Tour.

He turned professional in 1991 and earned his PGA Tour card a decade later by tying for third at Q-school.

"I have already played seven years in Japan," Tanaka said. "I came to the United States to play major championships and at the time, I felt that I had to come to the United States to go to the next level, to play better."

Tanaka has 15 international wins, but his best PGA finish was a tie for fourth last year at the Disney Golf Classic.

AFP

Ferrero, Roddick set up final duel

NEW YORK—Juan Carlos Ferrero knocked Andre Agassi out of the US Open, 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, on Saturday, and will replace him as the world's top-ranked man in the new rankings this week.

"To be at No. 1, it's a special day for me," Ferrero said. "I am playing good. I have a lot of confidence. I can do every shot."

Ferrero will next face No. 4 Andy Roddick, who rallied from two sets down to beat exhausted David Nalbandian, 6-7 (4), 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-1, 6-3, and reached his first Grand Slam final.

RODDICK

FERRERO

"I'm pumped. I came here so many times when I was younger, and I can't believe I'm actually in a US Open final," said Roddick, the 2000 junior Open champion.

"It would be great to go one step further."

With Justine Henin-Hardenne beating Kim Clijsters, 7-5, 6-1, in an all-Belgian women's championship match Saturday night, a loss by Roddick would have meant no Americans in either singles final at a US Open for the first time since 1988.

But Roddick showed real grit, erasing a match point in the third set en route to his season-leading 18th straight victory. He's 36-2 since teaming with coach Brad Gilbert, Agassi's former mentor, after a first-round exit at the French Open.

"It's maturity. By playing, you learn. I feel confident right now, so I didn't feel there was a need to panic," Roddick said, referring to his two-set deficit. "To come through that gave me new life. I was almost down and out anyway. I just decided to go for it."

Ferrero, the reigning French Open champion, was inspired in his first match in Arthur Ashe Stadium all tournament, and appeared to be fresher than Agassi, who had two extra days off during a rain-delayed week at Flushing Meadows.

Remarkably, he outslugged Agassi from the baseline, all the while zipping from corner to corner with the speed that earned the nickname "Mosquito."

AP

ro grabs 2-shot s Swede yields

ELS: 2 behind. REUTERS

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lade, Irishman Des Smyth, who won the 2001 Madeira Island Open at the age of 48 years and 34 days.

A 35-foot eagle putt at the opening hole gave Romero the fast start he wanted and he, Karlsson and Els were virtually inseparable through the front nine.

But Romero made what he called a "stupid bogey" at the ninth, when he should have laid up with a nine iron instead of hitting his 5-iron under some trees. He dropped another shot at the 12th but birdied the long 14th and 15th holes.

Els' fifth birdie at the ninth was matched by Karlsson but both suffered after the turn. Els bogeyed four holes in succession from the 11th and had another at the 16th, while Karlsson double-bogeyed the 10th, bogeyed the 12th and could not make any birdies down the stretch.

AP

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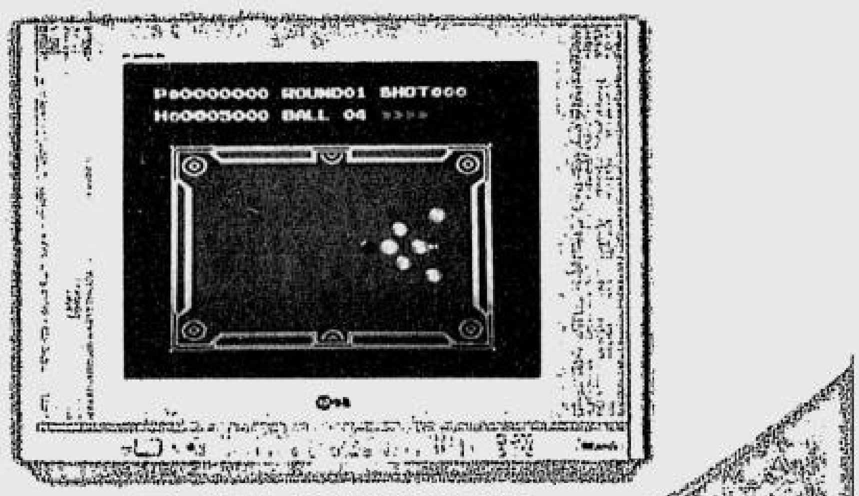

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EURO QUALIFYING

England booter makes history

ROONEY

SKOPJE, Macedonia—Wayne Rooney made history with his second-half goal and David Beckham scored the winner. on a penalty as England rallied to beat Macedonia 2-1 in Euro 2004 qualifying Saturday.

Macedonia, matching England in the first half in Skopje, took the lead with a Georgi Hristov goal in the 28th minute.

But England woke up in the second half.

Beckham crossed a ball to Emile Heskey— a second-half sub —and his header fell perfectly to Rooney. The Everton striker, running forward, shot past Petar Milosevski with a low shot from 12 yards out in the 53rd minute.

Rooney, at 17 years and 317 days, became the youngest ever England scorer, surpassing strike partner Michael Owen. Owen was 18 years and 164 days old when he scored against Morocco in 1998.

"Everyone knows what Wayne can do," Beckham said. "He's a great player and a great lad."

Beckham, England's best player, created the chance that led to the penalty. His pass found defender John Terry, who made his way into the opposing penalty area. Terry was brought down by substitute Aguinaldo de Jesus Braga, and referee Franck De Bleeckere pointed to the spot.

Beckham shot past Milosevski to make it 2-1 in the 63rd.

"It was my duty to score," Beckham said.

He claimed he was spat on and verbally abused by unnamed Macedonian players. According to Beckham, one opponent told him, "Be careful, you'll die tonight." He said he laughed it off.

"I've been through a lot worse than that," Beckham said. "Still, there are things on the pitch that shouldn't be going on on the pitch.

"I'm not sure we deserved to be down in the first half," he added. "It was character again that brought us through the second half."

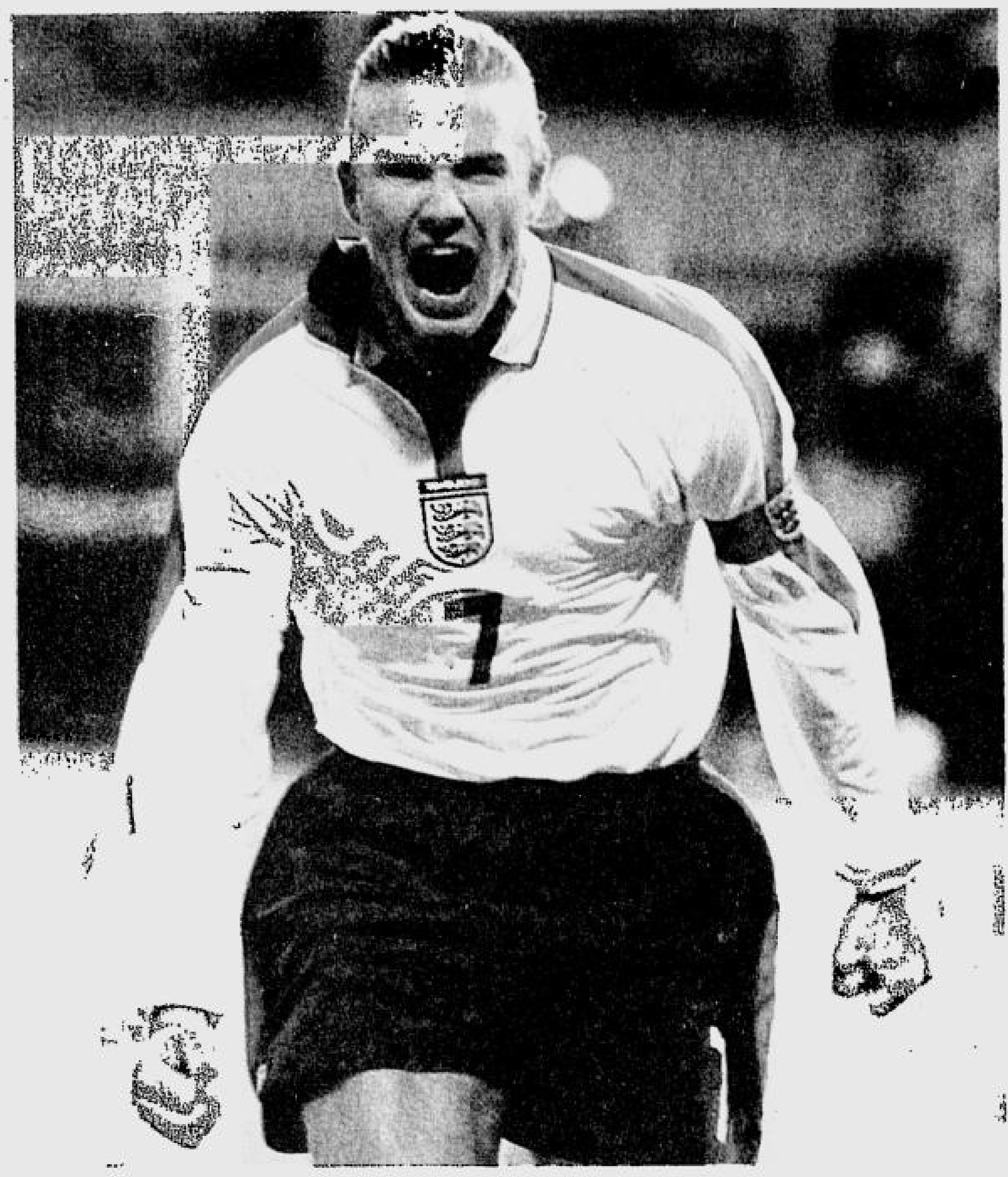
England has 16 points from six games in Group 7. Turkey, which had 15 points from six games, was to play Liechtenstein later on Saturday.

"Macedonia has a good team and it showed today," England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said. "I'm very proud of my players. Once again they showed they can come back from 1-0 down.

Eriksson called the first half a "lackluster" affair but praised his squad for "keeping their heads cool" and not losing patience.

England and Turkey are expected to battle for the automatic qualifying berth in Istanbul on Oct. 11.

Macedonia, which surprisingly played to a 2-2 draw with England last October, threatened early in the first half. *AP*


BECKHAM celebrates his goal against Macedonia.
REUTERS

Chile draws home team Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Milovan Mirosevic and Reinaldo Navia each scored second-half goals Saturday as Chile clawed back from a two-goal deficit to draw Argentina 2-2 in South America's World Cup qualifying round.

Peru thrashed Paraguay 4-1 and Ecuador blanked Venezuela 2-0 in other qualifying matches.

Mirosevic scored in the 60th minute and Navia in the 76th, giving an injury-depleted Chile a valuable point on the road in the opening match of the two-and-half year regional qualifying campaign.

The result dealt a blow to Argentina, which dominated the game and was hoping for a fresh start after its first-round elimination at the World Cup last year.

Argentina opened a 2-0 lead in the first half after Kily Gonzalez and Pablo Aimar scored within a four-minute stretch. . Gonzalez scored in the 31st, then Aimar.

Gonzalez, who for Italy's Inter Milan, collected a pass from Andres D'Alessandro and sent a swerving left-footed shot from outside the penalty area that left Tapia standing in the goalmouth as the ball curled into the upper corner.

Both teams were reduced to 10 players in the 86th when Chile's Cristian Alvarez and Walter Samuel of Argentina were red-carded for rough play. *AP*

Ottke retains IBF, WBA crowns

ERFURT, Germany—Sven Ottke kept his IBF and WBA super middleweight title Saturday, winning a close fight against Denmark's Mads Larsen.

The German, 32-0, took control of the bout in the second half of the fight to defend his WBA crown for the 19th time and IBF title for the second time.

The judges, however, ruled the bout 115-113, 115-113 and 115-115 in a fast-paced fight in which few blows were landed and one or two could decide a round.

Larsen, a mandatory defense for the German, entered with a 44-1 record with 37 knockouts and ranked among the top five among all three of the major boxing organizations.

"Who do you think won the fight," said Larsen, angry at the decision. "I chased him all over the ring. Should I have run the Berlin marathon?"

But the speedy German, who always runs and is rarely hit, also rarely got tagged by the Dane and ended the fight with an unmarked face. He appeared to win three rounds and Larsen only clearly took the seventh.

Ottke had trouble solving the style of the first left-hander he's defended against in the early rounds, landing just a few body shots on the Dane.

The 36-year-old German has talked of retiring, but said it won't happen yet.

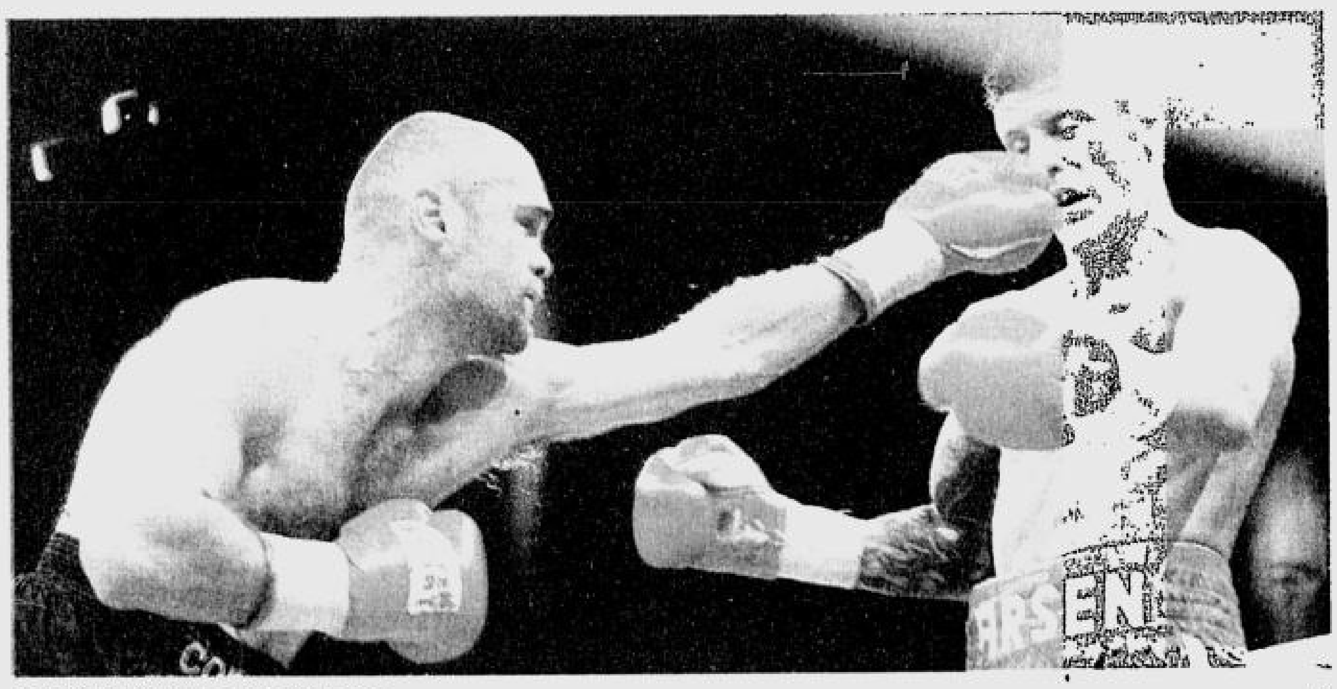
His camp is in ongoing negotiations with WBC middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins, they say.

Meanwhile, Zsolt Erdei of Hungary remained unbeaten with a unanimous decision over Spain's Juan Nelongo Perez on Saturday and kept his WBO Intercontinental light heavyweight crown before his home crowd.

In Nagoya, Japan Mexico's Oscar Larios successfully defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) super bantamweight title Sunday by disposing of Japanese challenger Kozo Ishii with a technical knockout.

The Mexican champion, 26, finished the bout two minutes two seconds into the second round, showing no ill-effects from a broken jaw suffered in his previous defense in April against Japan's Shigeru Nakazato.

Larios' record now stretches to 50 wins, including 35 knockouts, against three defeats and a draw. *AP*


OTTKE (left) lands a left at Madsen.
AP

RP boxers lose to Thai rivals

By Rey Danseco

FILIPINOS Rey Llagas, Jhay "Power" Herla and Elderd Romero were added in a long list of Filipino losers in a professional boxing fight in Thailand, while Wendel Cajoles and Benjie Sorolla joined several Filipinos who are going to fight in a regional championship bout within the month.

Llagas, a veteran of more than 80 fights, fell short against former World Boxing Council flyweight champ Chartchai Sasakul over 12 round for the Asian Boxing Council interim bantamweight title.

On the other hand, WBC No. 15 and current WBC light flyweight youth champ Sarikalek Ekarin of Thailand stopped Herla in the fifth round of their scheduled 10-round title fight. Both bouts served as main event of a huge fight card in Pradit Manootham Sports Arena in Klongtan, Thailand, last Friday.

The Baybay, Southern Leyte-born Romero matched reigning World Boxing Organization Asia-Pacific bantamweight champion Ratanachai Sor Vorapin's punching ability in the first five rounds, only to end up short in the sixth stanza.

Vorapin, a veteran of two International Boxing Federation title fight and currently No. 1 ranked by the WBO, hurt Romero with hard shots early in round six, forcing the Thai referee to stop the bout.

MUTOLA (1) winning the women's 800 meters in the Memorial Ivo Van Damme Golden League on Saturday.
AFP

Mutola using part of her $1-M bonus to fund young Mozambique athletes

BRUSSELS—Maria Mutola may be about to spend a part of her million dollars Golden League bonus on another rottweiler but her Mozambique compatriots need not worry as the larger proportion will be set aside for funding young athletes and other charitable projects.

The remarkable 30-year-old three-time world outdoor champion and Olympic titleholder admitted that the sum would cause some resentment back home where the average Mozambiquean would be hard pressed to earn 200 dollars a year.

However, aside from replacing a recently deceased Rottweiler by two of the same breed and two Alsatians that she has living in her home in Johannesburg, she has already ploughed money into the infrastructure of her home country.

"I have invested in the first synthetic running track in the country along with some government money and local sponsors and I have sponsored a 15-year-old athlete from Mozambique to go to school in the United States," said the five-time world indoor champion, who benefited from a scholarship when she was 16.

Mutola, though, said that she would take time to reflect on how the money should be spent.

"The resentment in Mozambique is becoming a bit of a problem but in a nice way," she said.

"It's a lot of money even for me.

"The Mozambiqueans respect that and respect the hard work I have put in to get so far.

"Most of the money will go into the Maria Mutola Fund and I will sit down and decide what kind of projects to fund and what money they require."

Mutola's main aim is to see all her good work not go to waste and to see potential successors follow her to major championships just as veteran Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks is trying to inspire in his compatriots.

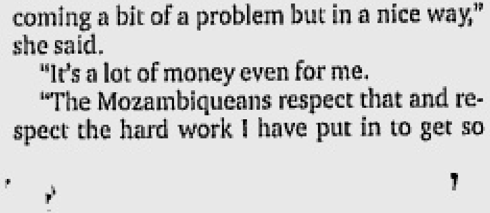
"It's always very embarrassing to go to major championships with just 2-3 athletes," said the two-time Commonwealth Games champion.

"I'd like to see Mozambique going to major championships with 15-16 athletes all with some chance of making finals if not medalling.

"We've got a lot of talent it's just they have to realize their potential."

Mutola said her mental approach had matured considerably since she first competed at a major championships and hinted that next year's Olympics may be her last.

"I've learned to relax these days. *AFP*


MUTOLA holds a replica of her $1 million bonus.
AFP

ASIAN SUPERCROSS
Glen Aguilar of the Philippines makes a turn round the bend, while fellow competitors from Asia follow closely behind during the Asian Supercross Championships on Saturday in Singapore. This is the first time the city-state is hosting the competition which requires the riders to flaunt their best jumps and techniques while crossing obstacles on sand-filled, man-made terrain. AP

Norwegian rules Rally Australia

PERTH, Australia—Norway's Petter Solberg held his nerve over the final stages to pip Frenchman Sebastien Loeb in a thrilling finish to Rally Australia here Sunday.

Solberg, 28, at the wheel of a Subaru, beat his 29-year-old rival, in a Citroen, by 26.6 seconds, boosting his hopes of clinching the world Rally drivers' crown for the first time.

Third was Briton Richard Burns (Peugeot), a further 1 min 26.4 seconds back.

Solberg began the day 5 seconds behind Loeb, but snatched the lead on the first leg of the final day to have a slender 0.6 second advantage.

Loeb reasserted his authority to take a 1.3-second lead after the next stage.

However, Solberg sizzled on the penultimate leg, forging to an 8-second advantage as Loeb found the going tough on a slippery rain-affected surface.

Solberg increased his margin over the final stage.

It was Solberg's second win in the 2003 series, following his success in the Cyprus event.

The Norwegian jumps from third equal to second equal, with Spaniard Carlos Sainz, in the world standings. Both have 48 points, seven behind leader Burns. *AFP*

5TH STRAIGHT WIN

Red Sox batter Yankees

NEW YORK—Kevin Millar and Nomar Garciaparra homered off Roger Clemens as the Boston Red Sox battered the New York Yankees for the second straight day, breezing 11-0 Saturday behind Tim Wakefield for its fifth straight win.

"Our offense is scary," said Johnny Damon, who had two hits and drove in two runs. "It's someone different every day."

Boston, which trailed the Yankees by 7 1/2 games on Aug. 20, closed within 1 1/2 games of first-place New York in the American League East, the Yankees' slimmest margin since July 29. It was the most-lopsided shutout loss for New York at Yankee Stadium since Milwaukee won 12-0 on April 27, 1984.

"You ride through the tough times and, hopefully, you make them end as quickly as possible," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "We really have to look at the big picture. People still have to come and get us."

A day after Boston won the opener 9-3, Clemens (13-9) lasted just 3 1-3 innings, his earliest exit not related to an injury since June 6, 1999, against the New York Mets. He allowed seven runs and seven hits.

"When they get a hittable ball, they're hitting it, that's for sure," Clemens said. "They're hotter than a pistol right now."

Wakefield (10-6) gave up four hits in seven innings.

In Toronto, Roy Halladay (19-6) pitched a three-hitter for the first extra-inning shutout in the major leagues since Jack Morris led Minnesota over Atlanta in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series. Toronto won, 1-0.

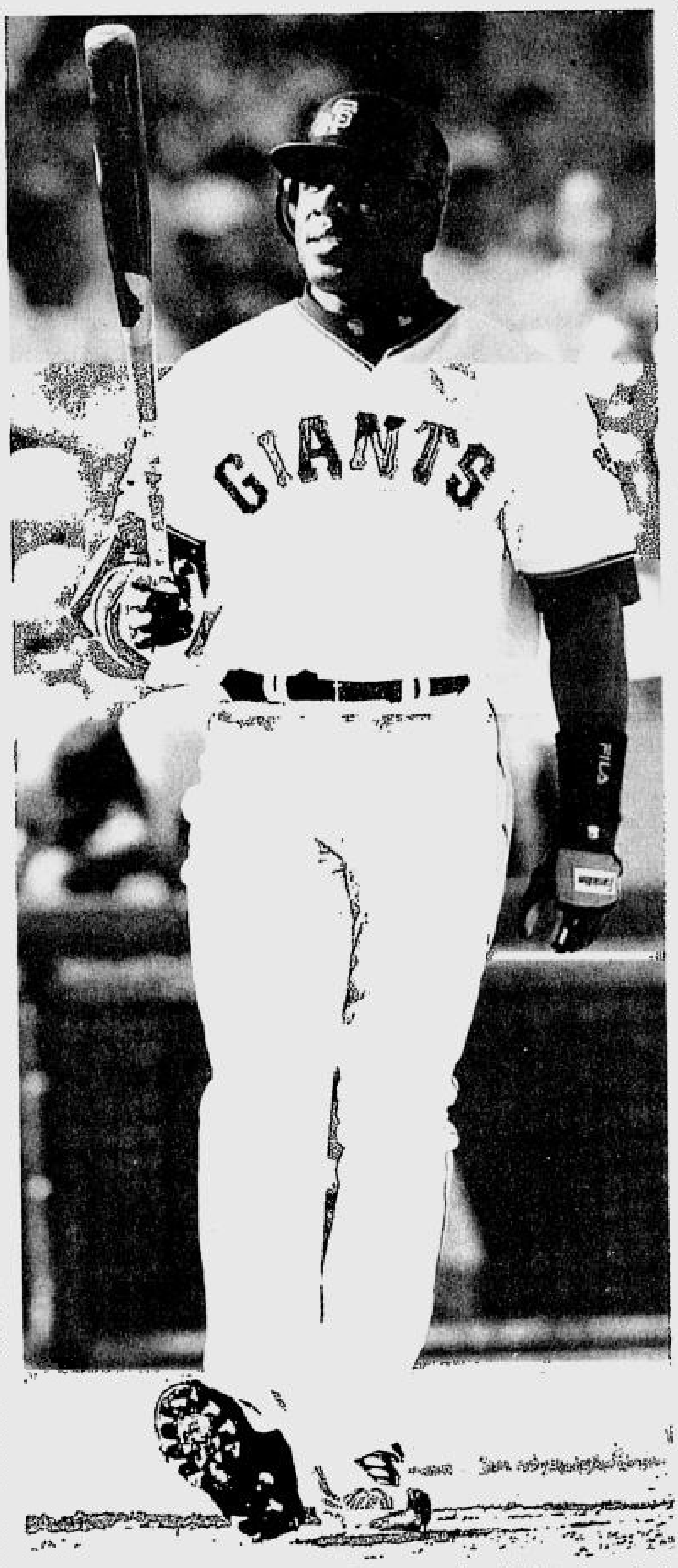
Halladay didn't allow a hit until pinch-hitter Kevin Witt doubled with two outs in the eighth.

Dave Stewart had the previous extra-inning shutout during the regular season, allowing five hits over 11 innings as Oakland beat Seattle on Aug. 1, 1990.

Pinch-hitter Bobby Kielty drove in the winning run off Fernando Rodney (0-2) when he singled over center fielder Alex Sanchez. Detroit dropped to 37-104.

In Chicago, Esteban Loaiza (19-6), tied with Halladay for the major league lead in wins, allowed five runs and eight hits in seven innings while striking out 10. Chicago remained tied with Minnesota for the AL Central lead.

Paul Konerko tied the score at 5 when he homered in the sixth off Rafael Betancourt, then hit a two-run single in the seventh off Danys Baez after Jack Cressend (2-1) allowed hits to Roberto Alomar and Magglio Ordonez. *AP*



BARRY Bonds of the San Francisco Giants examines his bat after a foul ball during the 10th inning against the Arizona Diamondbacks. AFP

Cards, Giants prevail

ST. LOUIS—Woody Williams won for the first time since July 26 as the St. Louis Cardinals overcame an early three-run deficit and beat the Cincinnati Reds 13-6 Saturday.

Eli Marrero had a two-run triple and drove in three runs in his first start since tearing ankle ligaments on May 11, Bo Hart had four hits and three RBIs, and Albert Pujols homered for the second straight game.

St. Louis won for only the second time in seven games. The Cardinals entered third in the National League Central, two games behind division-leading Houston, and managed only four hits in the last 11 innings of a 4-2, 12-inning loss to the Reds on Friday night.

In San Francisco, Marquis Grissom drew a bases-loaded walk from Matt Mantei (5-4) in the 11th to give San Francisco its sixth victory in seven games, 5-4.

The Giants maintained their 12-game NL West lead. Scott Eyre (2-1) got two outs for the victory. Arizona has lost 10 of its last 11 at Pacific Bell Park.

Jason Schmidt outdueled Curt Schilling until Arizona tied it on Luis Gonzalez's two-run double in the seventh. *AP*

Italian rider takes pole

ESTORIL, Portugal—Loris Capirossi set a new lap record at the Estoril track Saturday to claim pole position for Sunday's MotoGP Portuguese Grand Prix.

The Italian, riding a Ducati, had a fastest lap of 1 minute, 38.412 seconds at the 4.182-kilometer (2.60-mile) circuit for his third pole of the season and an average speed of 1:38.412 kph (86.01 mph).

The 12 fastest riders were all under Carlos Checa's 2002 pole position time, continuing the trend of lap and race times crumbling under the onslaught of power and speed of the 990cc, 230hp four-stroke bikes that were introduced last year, replacing the dominant 500cc two-strokes.

Max Biaggi will start next to Capirossi, followed on the front row by defending world champion Valentino Rossi and Sete Gibernau, all on Hondas. *AP*

Telekom eyeing Ullrich return

BERLIN—Telekom cycling chief Walter Godefroot has revealed the German team are willing to offer 2003 Tour de France runner-up Jan Ullrich a sensational return to the team where he made his name.

Ullrich, 29, is a wanted man after his stellar performances in this year's tour and Telekom want the German rider in their stable once again as Ullrich's current team Bianchi stall on a new deal.

"We want Jan Ullrich," Walter Godefroot told German newspaper Bild am Sonntag. "We would put together something special for him."

Olympic road race champion Ullrich, who will sit out the 2003 world championships in Canada, joined the Telekom team in 1995 but the duo parted ways in July 2002 after the German rider tested positive for amphetamines.

Dethroning Lance Armstrong in next year's Tour is Ullrich's priority. *AFP*

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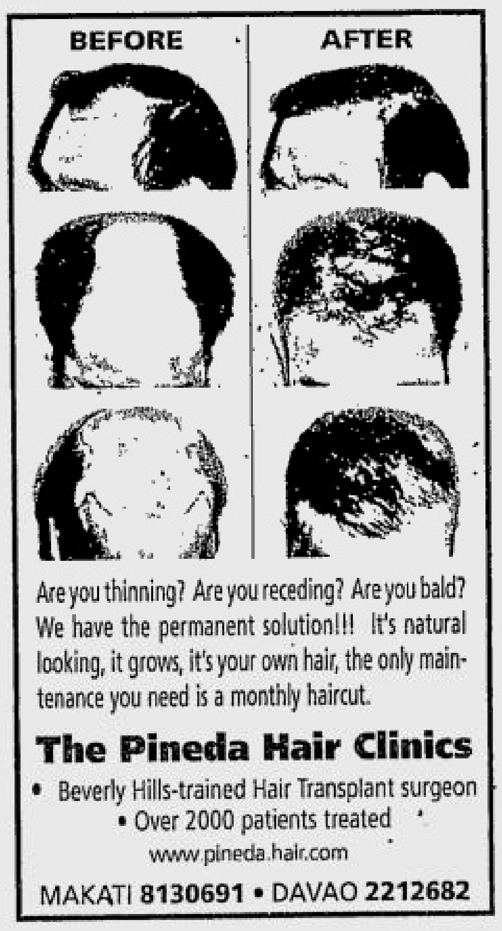

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Tampus, Mayol score wins in Ormoc

Salven Lagumbay
Contributor

ORMOC CITY—Reigning Pan Asia Boxing Association light flyweight king Marvin "Leyte Bomber" Tampus successfully defended his regional title here with an eighth-round knockout of Thai Kaichon Sor Vorapin at the Ormoc City Superdome here.

Tampus, the 18-year-old prized find from Bato, Leyte now fighting out of Cebu's Stonewall Boxing Club, unleashed a thunderous right to Vorapin's kisser, sending the latter down for good at the 1:21 mark of the eighth round as supporters rushed to the ring to hug the victorious local boy.

"I give credit to my challenger tonight. My preparation paid off. I didn't want to let my people down," Tampus said.

The three judges had Tampus leading before the stoppage, 68-64, 68-63, 68-65.

Meanwhile, RP minifly champ Rodel Mayol, currently ranked WBC No. 4, also impressed all spectators as he knocked down Thai Namchai Thaksin-Isarn thrice for a spectacular stoppage at the 2:55 mark of the second round.

Mayol scored an early knockdown with a glancing left in the opening round, then followed up with a left hook in the second to send the Thai again to the canvas. A combination of body shots then finished off the Thai as referee Baden Ribaya halted the fight.

Lina available for nat'l cycling presidency

AIR21 chair Bert Lina yesterday announced that he is available for the presidency of the national federation for cycling.

"It's fulfilling my love for the sport of cycling and completing a vow to help promote far and wide the sport not only competitively but also as a leisure and physical fitness activity," said Lina, who heads the LGC Cycling Association, an affiliate of the cycling federation.

Lina's team is composed of seasoned veteran riders and race organizers and managers as well as planners, a team, he stressed, that possesses a balance of what Philippine cycling needs at the moment.

Certain groups inside the federation, now known as the Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines (ICFP), however, appear to be derailing Lina's objectives for the body, which will hold its elections on Sept. 14.

But Lina is unfazed and vowed to finally resolve the controversies bugging the federation.

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New rule levels playing field in SEAG

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday bared a new Southeast Asian Games Federation ruling which is designed to level the playing field by limiting the host country's power to fix the calendar of events to its favor.

"Host countries don't actually have the prerogative to take out events and introduce new ones," Dayrit told the INQUIRER. "But the SEA Games Federation sometimes allows the hosts to include their favorite events provided they have enough participants."

The existing rule is that before a sport discipline or an event is included in the calendar, there should at least be three countries taking part. In case the third country backs out, the event will still be held in consideration of the host's effort to stage it.

But starting with the Manila SEA Games in 2005, Dayrit said there should be a minimum of four participants before a new event is considered.

Also, the SEAG Federation will prohibit "artificial events" or those not traditionally played in the international federation championships.

Like, say, in basketball, the host country can't stage a three-on-three or a 6-feet-and-under category because such is not played in Fiba (international basketball federation) championships.

On the contrary, practical shooting (which the country included in the 1991 Manila SEAG), is allowable because it is considered a different sports event altogether.

But Dayrit said the country can find ways to make the 2005 SEAG calendar work for our advantage.

He added that they plan to introduce dancesports and triathlon which can produce at least four gold medals each.

With the exception of the 1999 Brunei SEAG, all the Games starting from the 1995 Chiang Mai meet have been won by the host country.

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France cagers stay unbeaten; Spain shines

LULEA, Sweden—Tariq Abdul-Wahad, the first Frenchman in the NBA, scored 16 points as France routed Italy, 85-52, Saturday to stay unbeaten in the European Championship.

With former Boston Celtics great Larry Bird watching from the VIP section at the Coop Arena, the 2000 Olympic silver medalist showed why its the favorite to finally win a Euro title.

"For me the score was too big," France guard Makan Dioumassi said. "Italy has a very good team. I don't know what happened, but we're happy to win."

It was the biggest blowout between the two countries in the tournament since they first met at the inaugural event in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1935 when the event was held outdoors.

No wonder Bird left in the third quarter with France ahead, 61-41.

"No comments," said Bird, who arrived early Saturday to this coastal town south of the Arctic Circle after a long flight from Indianapolis, where he's the president of basketball operations for the Pacers.

Tony Parker of the San Antonio Spurs, the first Frenchman to win an NBA title, spent much of the fourth quarter on the bench and finished with 10 points. Nikola Radulovic led Italy with 18 points.

Slovenia, which upset Italy in its opener, beat winless Bosnia-Herzegovina, 73-62, behind 16 points by Marko Tusek and 14 by Primoz Brezec.

Spain, another favorite for the gold, also stayed unbeaten as Pau Gasol scored 31 of his 35 points in the first half en route to an 89-77 win over Russia at Sodertalje.

At Norrkoping, Dirk Nowitzki had 32 points and nine rebounds in Germany's 94-86 win over Latvia.

Latvia climbed back from a 16-point deficit to cut it to four at 85-81 with less than three minutes left. German point guard Mithat Demirel then took over the game, scoring the last nine points for his team as the Latvians ran out of steam.

• Solar Sports will telecast a double-header today: Germany faces Lithuania at 9 p.m. while Turkey clashes with Croatia at 11 p.m. *AP*

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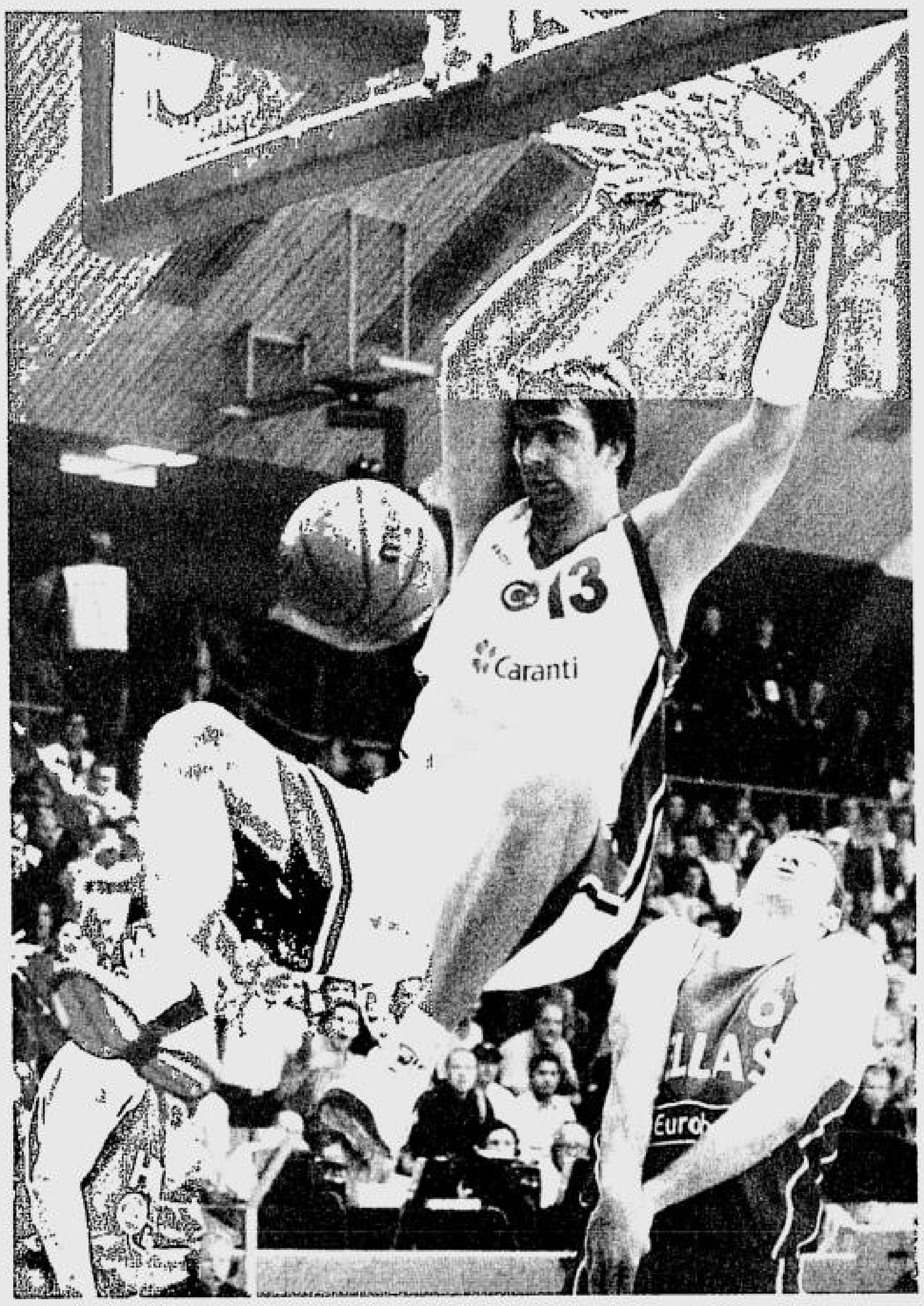

TURKISH Mhemet Okur hangs onto the basket after a dunk against Greek Rasim Basak. AFP

Naascu games slated at Philsports

AS PART of its program to help the collegiate leagues, the Philippine Basketball Association has agreed to hold selected games of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament as preliminary attraction of the PBA Reinforced Conference starting Wednesday, Sept. 10, at the Philsports Arena in Pasig.

Two-time champion University of Manila and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay will take the floor starting at 2:30 p.m. before the regular PBA doubleheader.

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Puyat sets the record straight

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT IS ONE of the tragedies of Philippine horseracing that concerned citizens like much respected businessman-sportsman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, president of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners, is now being accused of having instigated the ongoing investigation of the Alfredo Po-Dennis Camañero alleged gun-pointing case, that he offered money to a witness to testify against horse owner Po.

"That is not true, I deny that," said Puyat during last week's hearing being conducted by the Fact Finding Commission of the Philippine Racing Commission chaired by Jaime Dilag. Puyat also denied knowing Po personally whom he saw only once, stressing that he has no reason to begrudge the embattled horse owner. He also belied allegations made by groom Rowel "Ahem" Dacanay that he offered Dacanay P50,000 to act as a witness against Po, who is under investigation for allegedly threatening to shoot jockey Camañero after the jockey reportedly disobeyed Po's instruction to lose on board Top Quest during a race held at the Santa Ana Park. Top Quest, a long shot (*dehado*), won the race.

"I have no reason to do that," Puyat stressed, adding that he only wrote the Philracom in his capacity as Marho president asking it to conduct the investigation because the incident is "damaging to the reputation of horse owners" and also "tend to erode efforts of all industry players to raise the level of public confidence in horseracing."

Puyat said he learned of the gun-pointing incident (which happened on Aug. 9) only on Aug. 13 when Josefina Tanagon, wife of Elito Tanagon, his stable manager and horse trainer, told him about it, at the same time informing him that Elito will act as a witness for Camañero against Po.

Puyat said that he did not even know Camañero because he was not his jockey. He first saw the beleaguered Camañero on Aug. 14. when he came to see him together with Tanagon asking for support in his complaint against Po. A week later, Mrs. Tanagon repeated the plea for help for the hapless Camañero. The Marho head told Tanagon: "*Kung gusto mong tulong, sige. Pero sabihin mo lang 'yung totoo mong nakita, walang labis, walang kulang*. (If you want my help, okay. But you must only relate what you really saw and tell the truth and nothing but the whole truth.)"

The Po-Camañero hearing is resuming this week at the Philracom office.

***

ALL SET. It's all systems go for the 15th Asian Athletics Association track and field championships on Sept. 20-23 at the refurbished Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, with more than 1,500 athletes from 41 countries participating. Patafa president Go Teng Kok said all eyes will be focused on world-class athletes from regional giants China, Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan who will give the locals the badly needed preparation for the SEA Games in Vietnam later this year. PSC chair Eric Buhain added the meet will serve as a preview of the 2005 SEA Games the Philippines will be hosting in Manila . . . From boxing to golf. Popular promoter and now active Rotarian Jun Sarreal yesterday announced that the Rotary Club of Rizal Mideast, Rotary International District 38,000, will be hosting this year's Chairman's Cup golf tournament on Friday, Sept. 12, at the Mimosa Leisure Park at Clark Field, Angles City. The golfing event is being held for the benefit of malnourished children and college scholars of the Rotary Club of Rizal Mideast headed by Victorino Hoyumpa.

***

THE PAST OLYMPIANS. Unbeatable Vitali Scherbo of Belarus was the most successful athlete in the Barcelona Games of 1992, winning six gold medals in gymnastics. It was also in Barcelona where track and field legend Carl Lewis of the United States won his third Olympic long jump, paving the way for a record fourth victory in the event in Atlanta four years later at age 35 to become the greatest Olympian of the modern times. Overall, Lewis won nine Olympic golds, two in the 100 meters, one in the 200m, two in the 4 x 100-m relay and four in the long jump. His fourth consecutive Olympic golds (1988, 1992 and 1996) matched Al Oerter, who won the discus throw for the US from 1956 to 1968. Jackie Joyner-Kersee repeated in the women's heptathlon while the powerhouse US Basketball Dream Team, spearheaded by Magic Johnson—as expected—won the gold.

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BIR exceeds target, scraps amnesty program

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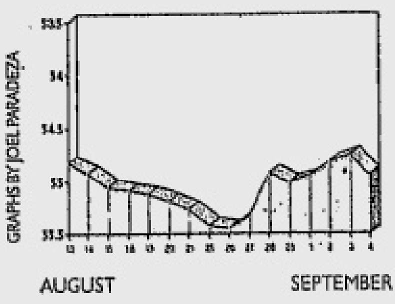

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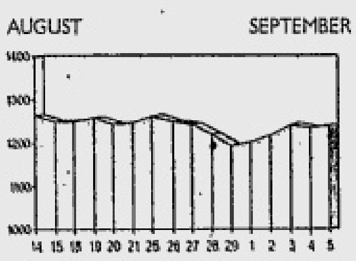


(See stock market report on Page B6)

LOCAL stocks are seen trading within a tight band this week as it attempts to muster more strength following the technical rebound last week.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose by 4 percent week-on-week to close at 1240.58 on Friday, although volumes remained thin.

Astro del Castillo, director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, said the market would likely consolidate within the range of 1,200-1,280 this week.

"Most of the news on the political security front were already digested by investors, who are now reacting to day-to-day developments," Del Castillo said.

"The market shall also be sensitive to the movement of the peso," he said.

The peso tumbled anew on Friday, after a brief rebound, due to the weak export data reported for July.

"Given the existing concerns on the political and security environment, investors will trade within this band as proven in the last few weeks when daily volume turnout was confined to P300-P500 million," Del Castillo said.

He noted, however, that the market has shrugged off the Jose Pidal expose made by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"It's not a major factor that can affect the sentiment of the Phisix anymore," he said.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank, said the lingering political and security concerns has kept the market from breaking above the 1,250 level.

Chartwise, he said Friday's close at 1240.58 was viewed as part of a minor pullback.

Doris C. Dumlao

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has exceeded its P38.01-billion collection target in August by almost P500 million, offsetting the P400-million shortfall of the Bureau of Customs last month and boosting the government's chances of meeting its deficit target.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. also said that starting November, the BIR would stop offering amnesty to tax delinquents and would impose stringent fees and penalties on those caught understating their liabilities.

He said the BIR would not hesitate to close down erring shops if needed. "With our better capability to track tax cheats, the number of establishments to be closed down is expected to run in the hundreds," Parayno warned.

A company or individual caught cheating would be ordered to pay a 3-percent VAT, a 2-percent income tax, 20-percent interest a year, and a surcharge of 25-50 percent.

"If there is fraud, the surcharge is 50 percent. The estimated collection from this stricter effort should be much more than the P6 billion we collected from the voluntary assessment and abatement program," Parayno estimated.

The VAAP, which offered a form of amnesty to tax delinquents, would end in October. The BIR only required the payment of the basic liability without interest and surcharges.

"The BIR would no longer allow firms to correct their tax payments through the VAAP but will instead prosecute tax evaders using the full force of the law. Any business that fails to settle its unpaid taxes, including penalties and surcharges, will be prosecuted and closed down if necessary," Parayno warned.

The BIR chief said the revenue agency also surpassed the eight-month target by P77 million after it collected P281.47 billion during the period.

As of Friday, the BIR had already collected P38.49 billion and it has until Sept. 14 to complete the revenue report for August. "This means our collections could be much higher," the BIR chief said.

Parayno pointed out that the BIR's collection target was slightly higher than the official government goal for BIR at P37.97 billion.

"Our internal target is even much higher to ensure that we would not only meet the P424-billion full-year goal but even exceed it," the revenue chief said.

As the government's biggest revenue agency, the BIR must meet its target to ensure that the budget deficit this year would not exceed P202 billion.

7 banks OK $500-M loan to BSP

BUENAVENTURA

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas signed a deal last Friday with seven foreign banks on a three-year, $500-million loan, the proceeds of which would be used to pay part of its maturing obligations next month and pre-fund some of its requirements for 2004.

The loan will be underwritten by Citibank N.A together with Citigroup Global Markets Asia Ltd., Credit Lyonnais, DBS Bank Ltd., HSH Nordbank AG, Mizuho Corporate Asia Ltd., Standard Chartered Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

The three-year loan will carry a spread of 2.26 percentage points over the six-month London interbank offered rate.

"Considering the current situation where we have non-economic factors weighing down on confidence, we are very pleased with the pricing of the loan. This is reasonable," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The central bank governor said the conclusion of the loan would leave the bond market open for the national government to raise initially $1 billion of its huge requirements for next year. The government and the cash-strapped National Power Corp. have about $6 billion in dollar loans falling due in 2004.

Sources said the government was also preparing a $750-mil li-

7 BANKS/ B6

Cancelled orders swamp exporters

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL exporters have called on the country's leaders to stop the political bickering and instead focus on the economy, complaining that this has caused a significant drop in the number of orders from clients abroad.

The Common Bonded Warehouse Operators Inc. (CBWOI), a group of local exporters operating in common bonded warehouses, said all its member-industries suffered cancellations of orders since the July 27 mutiny.

The group said this was due to the uncertainty in the country's economic and political environment that has cast doubts on the exporters' capacity to meet their clients' orders.

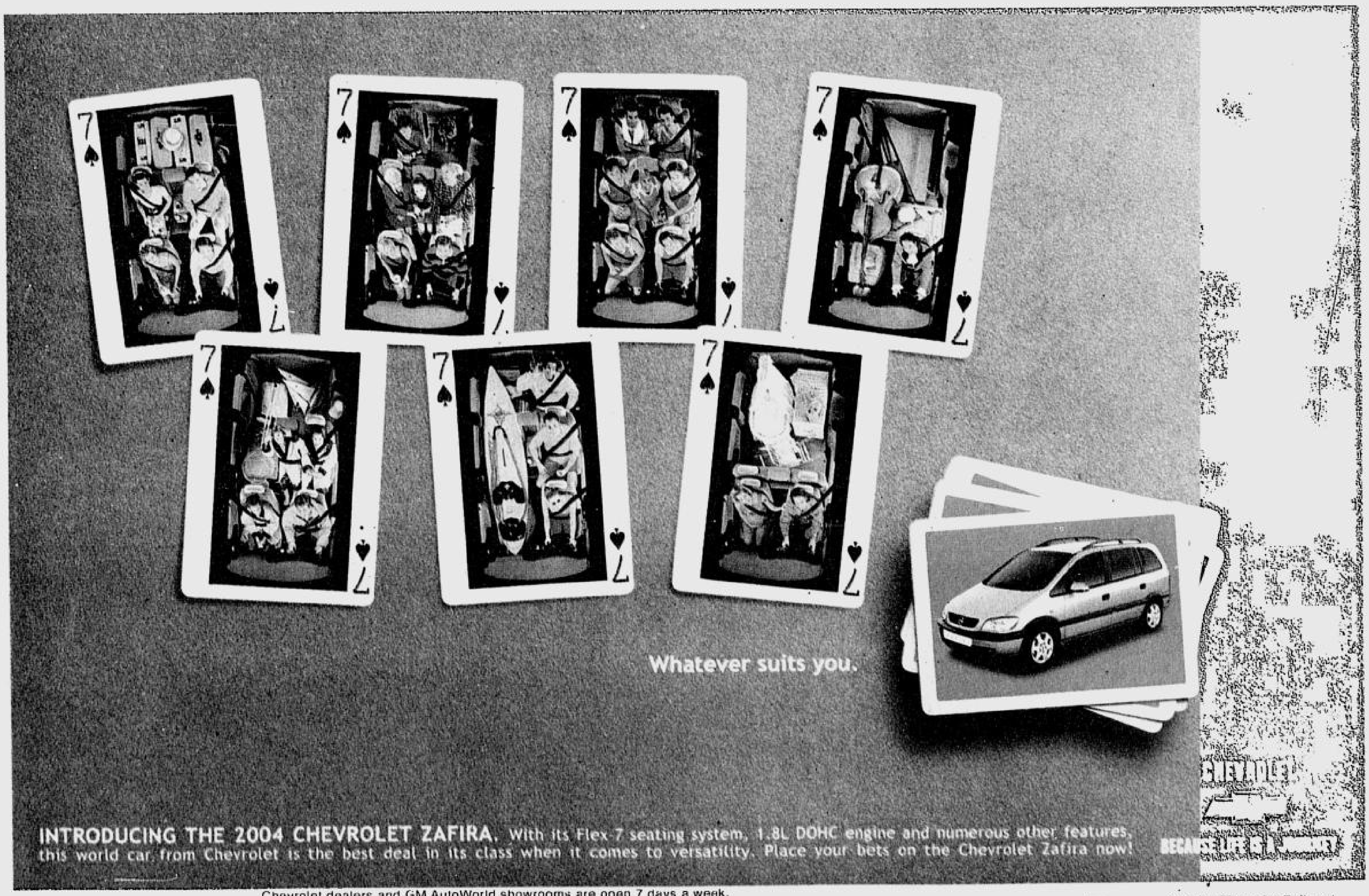
"Orders for August dropped by an estimated 70 percent following the recent mutiny. They began to recover a little in September after threats of a coup attempt waned, but now orders are again being canceled due to the current political events," said garments exporter Noemi Saludo.

Exports generated by common bonded warehouse operators average at $1 billion a year. The group said this figure was expected to significantly drop this year because of the ill-effects of the volatile political environment.

CBWOI president Alfredo Yatco said in an interview that the devaluation of the peso, which was blamed on the country's erratic political environment, also adversely affected common bonded warehouse operators, who source most of their raw material requirements from foreign suppliers.

Aside from the July 27 mutiny, the group particularly blamed the

CANCELLED/ B6



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BSP probes suspected splitting of forex deals

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has warned several banks, mostly operating in Chinatown, for suspected violations of foreign exchange regulations.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the central bank had evidence indicating that many of these banks had been "splitting their foreign exchange transactions."

"We have already written some of them and asked them to explain the questionable transactions," Reyes said.

If proven guilty of committing this violation, these banks faced fines of P5,000 to P30,000 per transaction depending on the extent of the offense and if violations were committed repeatedly, Reyes said.

Splitting has become the most common violation committed by banks to circumvent a BSP regulation requiring full documentation of dollar transactions involving $5,000 and above.

Reyes said BSP examiners became suspicious when several names listed by banks as buyers of their dollars shared similar or exactly the same addresses.

Chinatown is where the now defunct Binondo Central Bank used to operate. The Binondo Central Bank is the term that referred to banks and money-changers that were believed to have dictated the peso-dollar rate during the time of the late President Marcos.

The BSP has stepped up efforts against speculative activities that could aggravate the peso's depreciation.

The peso slipped back to 55 to $1 on Friday from its Thursday close of 54.95.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura blamed the new round of coup rumors for the volatility of the peso.

Last March, the BSP had asked eight banks to explain questionable dollar deals, some of which were undocumented while some were suspected to have been parked in hidden accounts.

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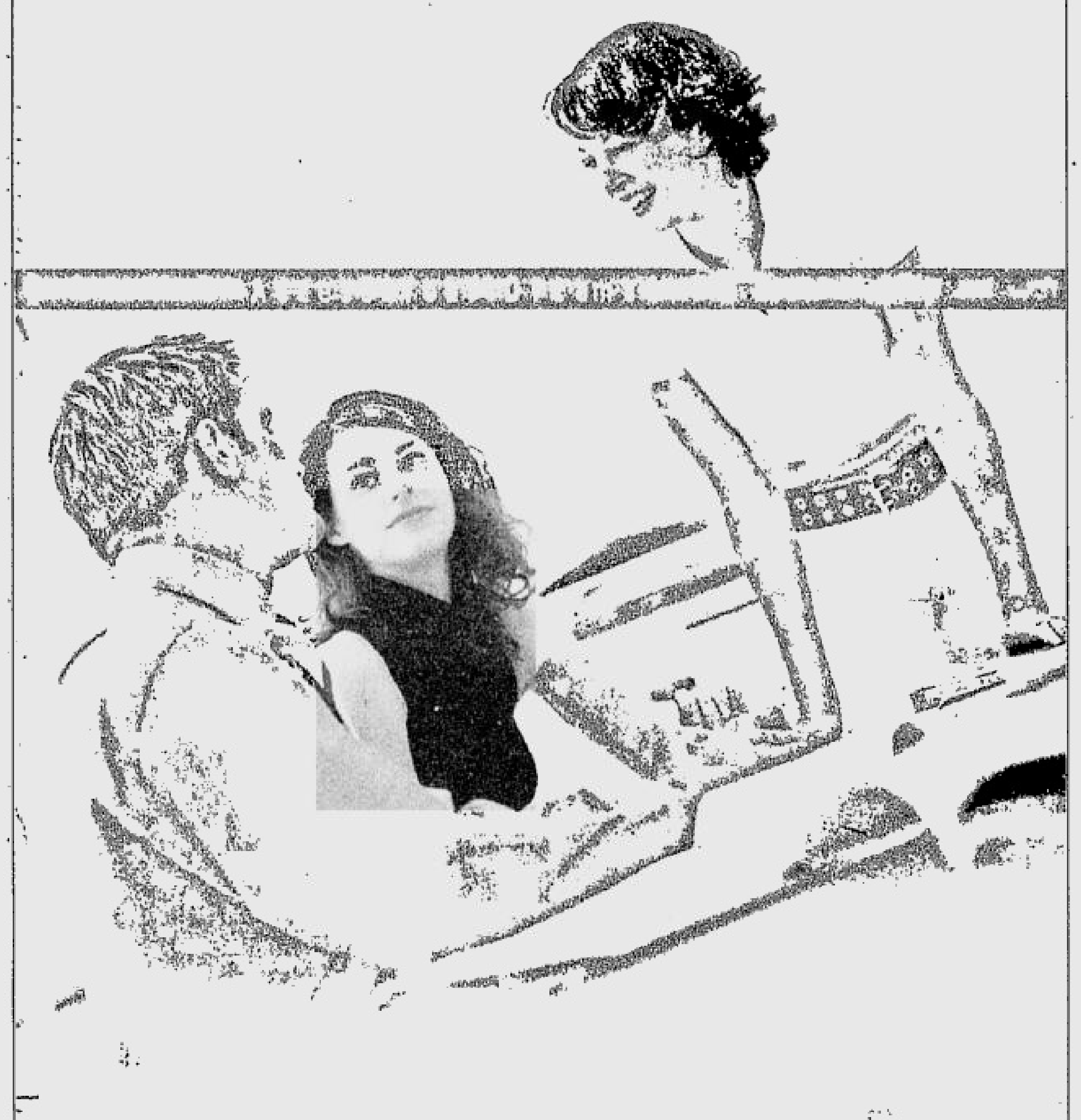

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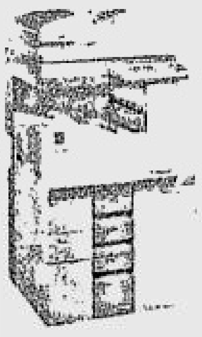

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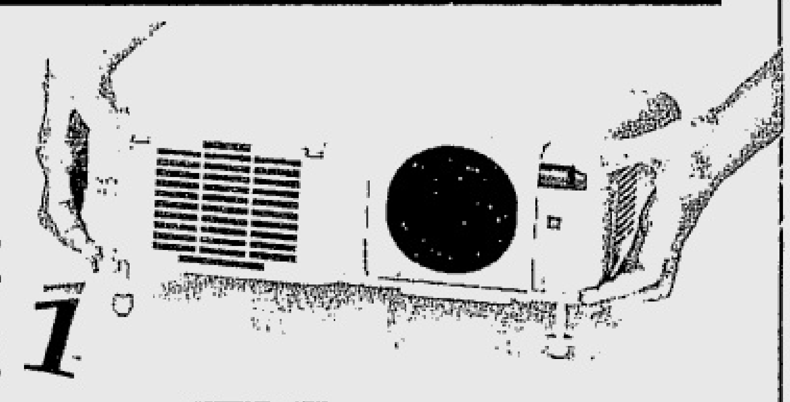

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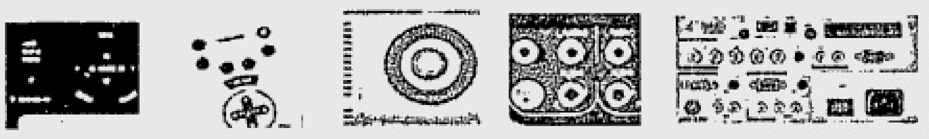

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Ping + MJ

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

SENATOR Panfilo Lacson was scheduled to visit and solicit the testimony of Mark Jimenez in his Florida detention over the weekend, specifically to obtain from the deposed congressman a cancelled P5-million check that had allegedly been deposited into a Jose Pidal account.

An MJ congressional colleague, who is also in touch with Lacson, said that Ping's Australian trip was just a ruse, and that the former Erap police/spy chief was really flying to Florida to link up with the detained Erap financier.

But, according to the congressional source, Jimenez appeared no longer interested in getting embroiled again in the muck of Philippine politics after being deported to the United States and sentenced to 21 months imprisonment for US tax evasion and election financing fraud.

If Lacson is successful in his Florida mission, the senator will rush back to Manila to catch up with today's Senate hearing, and present the MJ check.

That check, paid to "cash" and handed by MJ to Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama when he was still chief of staff of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, was supposed to have been deposited in a Jose Pidal account in Union Bank.

Villarama, who worked for MJ as chief of staff after a falling-out with the Arroyos, claimed he turned over the P5-M check to GMA's husband, Mike Arroyo.

According to the grapevine, Mike Arroyo's younger brother, Ignacio Arroyo, is prepared

PING/B6

Deal seen crucial to airport upgrade

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DIOSDADO Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Pampanga should be ready for international operations by year's end, if the government and Clark Development Corp. could come up with a concrete management contract in 30 days.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last week announced the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and CDC that effectively turned the DMIA into an alternate international airport to be used mainly by overseas Filipino workers.

MIAA general manager Edgardo Manda said a formal joint-venture firm called Clark International Airport Corp. would be formed to develop, manage and operate the international gateway.

The new firm would be 80-percent owned by CDC and 20-percent by the MIAA, he said.

He said the management contract for the DMIA was already being worked out. Should a final contract materialize in 30 days, some concrete infrastructure work should start as soon as possible.

These include the construction of an apron and a runway as well as the purchase of X-ray machines.

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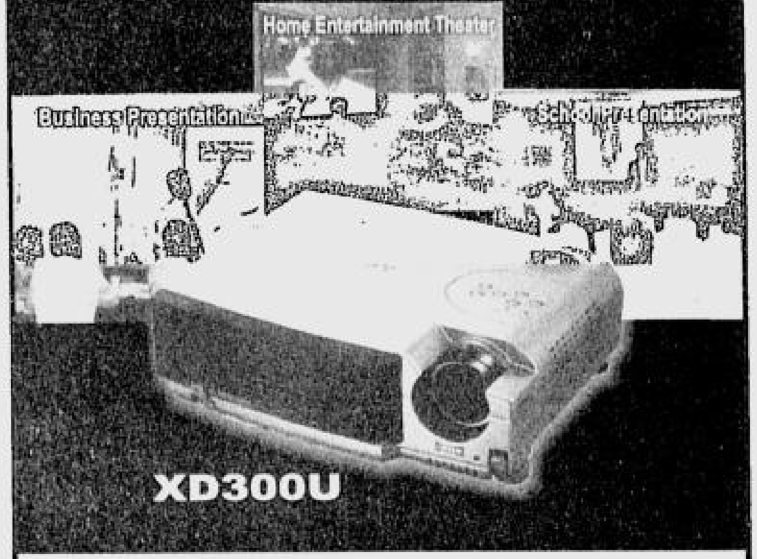
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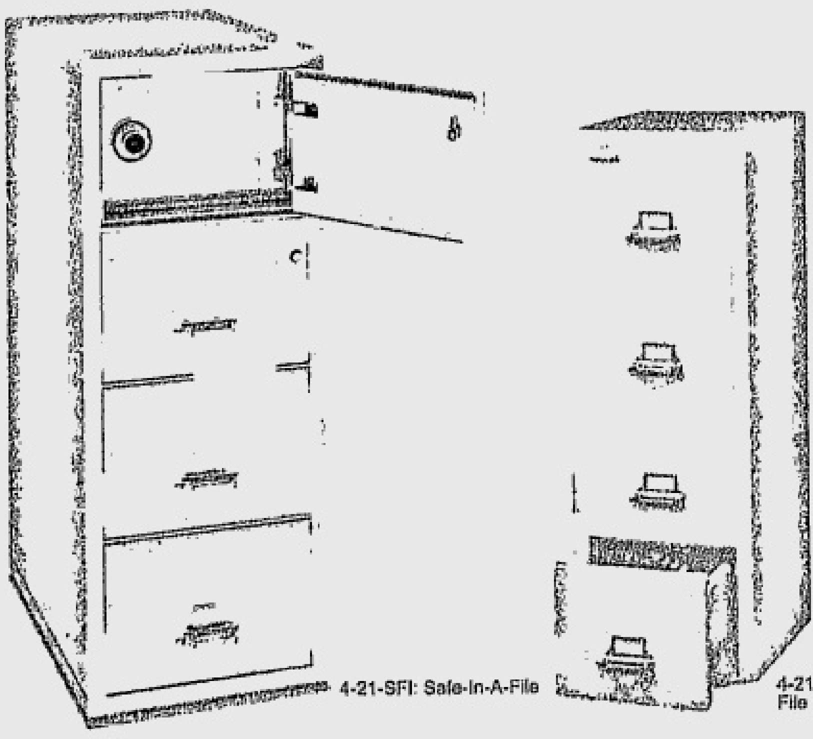
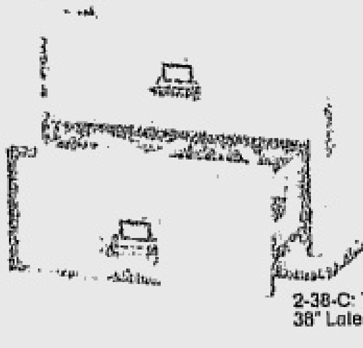
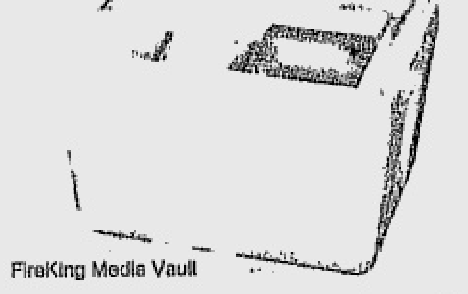
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Honesty is the best politics

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

STILL the biggest question about San Miguel chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. is exactly the same as that about Gloriaetta a few months ago: Will he or will he not?

At least Gloriaetta is answering it with her body language. She is definitely running—with or without Jose Pidal.

Alright, Gloriaetta is no longer giving away land titles. But she is still visiting poor areas and giving speeches—for free.

Eight months before the presidential elections, however, we still do not know whether Danding is running or not, despite all those people claiming to know his plans, or even the color of his underpants, if any, on a particular day of the week.

* * *

AND that inspired speech of his last week before the Canadian and Japanese business chambers even did not give any hint to those who are egging him to run.

Danding is keeping the deadline he set on himself, which is the end of this month, to announce his plan for 2004, if any. It is going to be the official announcement.

But, while quoting from that single speech, news reports took Danding's simple statement on the deadline as an indication that he is still not out of the running.

When you talk about Danding today in media, you don't talk about the profits which he racked up for San Miguel, or the major turnaround he did for the company.

In the news media, Danding is all about..., well, "politics." Will he or will he not? I mean, come on, me, I will readily give the man more meat than that.

* * *

TO me Danding makes more sense, when he talks of business and the economy, than the lawmakers and the Cabinet members. Combined!

And so I wondered if that speech was actually all about politics. You have to secure a copy too. Me, I read nothing about politics. It is all about the economy.

For a man who is supposed to be still, well, not out of the running, he did not even have a single bad thing to say about this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

And that is the SOP for those who are still not out of the running. Go ahead, ask Ping, Raul, and Boy Saycon. No, wrong, he is not running; he is just running away.

* * *

ANYWAY, while Danding did not have a single bad word for this cute administration, he also did not have kind words for the ... well "system."

For example, just to register a company, it will take you three months. Again, that's THREE freaking months.

Not only that, as Danding put it rather colorfully, going from one agency to another to start a business, you have to take a real pilgrimage.

Something is wrong with the way we run this country, is the way I get his message. Nobody can argue with him, I guess. Otherwise, we should all be rich by now.

* * *

THAT should be music to the ears of some people in business. When Danding talks his no-nonsense, frank, gutsy, honest talk, they are ready to lap up everything. Really, in business as down here in my barangay, honesty is still the best politics.

First of all, Danding knows that there are people who will pay for expensive five-star hotel dinner to hear him criticize the government.

And it is true, regardless of whether or not he is running, jogging or just walking.

To them, however, he says that the problems of the country are not just the problems of the government.

They are, Danding says, everybody's problems. I hope the wait-and-see business community is listening, and listening hard.

* * *

FOR indifference, particularly in business, is part of the problem. Danding has an explanation. He says it is an apparent loss of spirit. It is, to say the least, disturbing.

Okay, so we have a huge market. We are 80 million in all. Ours is also a young and creative workforce, lots and lots of it.

But, as Danding notes, not a few of them now wants to get out of the country, already surrendering their hope for a better future.

Danding says he cannot accept that. Here's a little quote: "I come from a generation that remembers when the Philippines was once the model of the rest of Asia."

* * *

OUR greatness seems a long time ago, even if it comes from the top executive of the most successful business in the country, but it was only less than 40 years ago.

In the 1960s, while China still suffered from famine now and then, and places like Hong Kong and Singapore looked like our countryside, the Philippines had the second biggest economy in Asia, next to Japan's. Today, well, never mind.

And so Danding says that it is not our destiny to plod along while the rest of our neighbors pass us by, probably including the up and coming Vietnam.

That is the same go-go-go spirit that's going for San Miguel, actually, which aims to become one of the top 10 food companies in the Asia-Pacific in the next four years.

* * *

SOME weeks ago, after talking to some guys from Binondo, I said that, at last, even our Chinese-Filipino businessmen are going bigtime into agriculture, instead of just trading.

San Miguel is showing them the way. The company is developing new sources for raw materials in Isabela,

BREAKTIME/ B6

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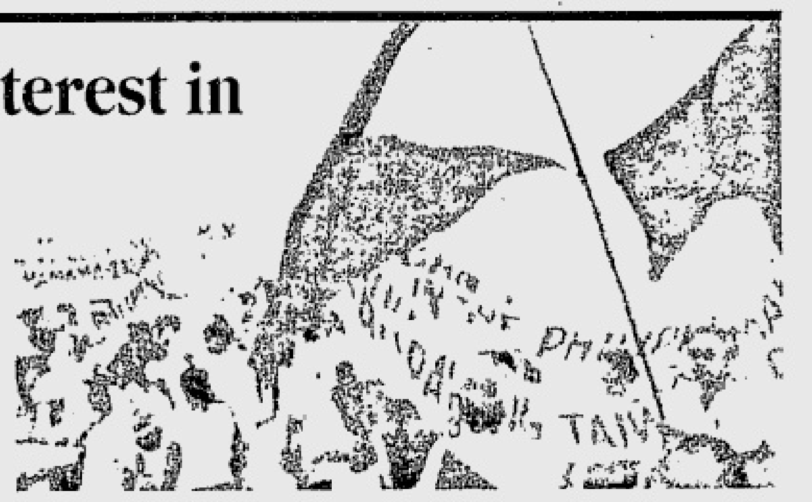
Defining and Asserting the National Interest in CANCUN



ON SEPTEMBER 10-14, the World Trade Organization (WTO) holds its 5th Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico to tackle negotiation modalities for the further liberalization of the world economy. On top of the negotiation table are trade issues related to the further opening up of the agricultural and industrial sectors, as well as non-trade issues such as competition policy, government procurement, trade facilitation and opening up of the service sector.

The conference shall be held amidst concern particularly from poor and developing countries that their membership in the WTO has brought them to even greater economic perdition. Nine years into its WTO membership, the Philippines is much weaker economically, a big loser because of its naivety in committing too much and too soon to the WTO.

So far, our trade negotiators have been vague and evasive in making public the Philippine negotiating stand. It seems the general stand is to *moderate* Philippine liberalization policy *without giving up on our existing global commitments*, which is a neither-here-nor-there position.

On industry, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) wants tariff rates frozen at 2000 levels, opposes the American proposal to eliminate 'nuisance' tariffs (0-5 per cent tariffs) and seeks 'flexibilities to maintain tariffs where warranted'.

On agriculture, the Department of Agriculture (DA) wants 'reforms' in the global trading system through the 'three pillars' – harmonization of market access measures in favor of developing countries, reduction of domestic support measures and elimination of export support measures.

On services, a National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) official said that the Philippine position favors selective liberalization and is opposed to any liberalization that will violate the Constitution, and yet the NEDA Director General Romulo Neri is vigorously pushing to eliminate the nationalist provisions of the Constitution.

Weak negotiating framework

Clearly, the government's trade negotiating stand lacks boldness and fails to address the disastrous results of the aimless and unbridled trade liberalization policy that the Philippines pursued in the name of compliance with its WTO commitments.

Specifically, our trade negotiators still have to provide clear answers to the following:

- What are the remedies to the harm that has been inflicted on industry and agriculture by the past liberalization measures committed in the name of compliance with the WTO? Why should tariffs be merely frozen at the level of 2000, the year when most of our tariffs already went down to 0-5 percent range, when there never was any requirement by WTO for us to do so?
- Why can we not negotiate for higher tariffs for agriculture when other countries, developing and developed, have higher tariffs that reach as high as 200 per cent or even higher?
- Why should we allow negotiations in services, when the primary issue is how to give transnational foreign service companies 'commercial presence' in developing countries?
- Why is the Philippines so silent on the most important principle that should govern global trading systems – the special and differential treatment (SDT) that should be accorded not only to agriculture but also to industry and other sectors of developing countries?
- Why are we not raising questions on the disturbing trends toward more and more inequality in global trade as manifested in the following: efforts of transnational forces to seek greater control and restrictions over technology through the intellectual property rights (TRIPS), evasion by the developed countries of their obligation to phase out agricultural subsidies which have risen to as much as US$1 billion a day, plans of developed countries to use the WTO in expanding to non-trade areas such as investments through the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the so-called Singapore issues (competition policy, government procurement and trade facilitation), and the routine establishment by developed countries of trade and non-trade barriers such as import surcharges and all kinds of product certification standards on incoming imports, including phyto-sanitary standards?
- Finally, why is it so easy for developed countries to impose anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures against unwanted imports, while injured domestic industries in the Philippines and other developing countries have to suffer further injuries by proving injury through litigious processes and presenting evidence before neo-liberal trade commissioners?

FTA's proposals for Cancun

We, at the FTA, therefore, propose and submit the following recommendations to the Philippine government:

1. That the negotiation framework should be based industrial development and human development, with trade treated as only one of the instruments for the realization of development goals.

Past Philippine trade negotiators and economic planners, obviously guided by their neo-liberal economic biases, elevated market liberalization into a general guiding principle for economic development. They pursued a one-sided trade liberalization program based on the naïve belief that as accelerated opening up of the economy would lead to greater efficiency and more growth and more jobs. The opposite happened, with disastrous results for the nation.

The neo-liberals forgot they are dealing with an underdeveloped economy with sectors and producers with varying levels of development and readiness for the so-called global competition, and with a global economy whose trade rules favor the rich and more developed countries as well as those which take a strongly nationalistic line of economic development such as the People's Republic of China.

Coherence in trade, growth and human development policies means *calibrated liberalization* and if needed, *calibrated protection* – for various sectors of our economy in accordance with our own development needs. This is why FTA gives so much importance to the special and differential treatment (SDT) principle, which should be made the overarching theme of the WTO's multilateral rules since not all countries are created equal and equal rules for unequal trading partners often lead to the exacerbation of such inequality.

2. The Cancun Ministerial Conference should not be an occasion to discuss, open and deepen any liberalization program for any sector – until and unless the concerns of developing countries for fairness and for special and differential treatment have been met and a clear balance sheet on the benefits and losses experienced by the Philippines in each sector has been made.

In particular, we say:

- **NO** to any efforts to lock in the existing super-low tariff regime of the Philippines in the new WTO's proposed tariff reduction schedule for industry under the so-called NAMA or the 'non-agricultural market access', for the challenge precisely is how to recalibrate upward the country's industrial and agricultural tariffs
- **NO** to any new agricultural liberalization talks as long as the OECD countries maintain their farming subsidies, direct and indirect.
- **NO** to any service industry liberalization talks aimed at merely opening up of the service industries of developing countries to allow foreign takeovers of existing facilities
- **NO** to any talks on the so-called Singapore (1996) but clearly non-trade issues, namely: a.) competition policy, which seek to reduce the role of the government in market regulation; b.) government procurement, to transform the government into a market for transnational suppliers, and c.) trade facilitation, to reduce the role of domestic trade regulators.

3. If there are areas of trade negotiations that should be opened, they should be on:

a. how developing countries can repair the damages inflicted on their economies by erroneous and un-calibrated liberalization commitments.

b. how the dispute settlement machinery of the WTO be made to work in defense of the weak industries and agriculture of developing countries like the Philippines; and

c. how food security be defined as the capacity of a nation to grow its own food at sufficient quantity and how staple crops should be exempted from the tariff regime

Asserting the national interest

OUR TRADE negotiators will do the country great service if they articulate the fact that nearly 9 years after the WTO, the Philippines is worse off and that its agro-industrial base is much eroded and weaker than before. Hence, the call of the times is a realistic and honest-to-goodness reassessment of Philippine integration in the world economy under the WTO rules.

Here at home, there should be a major overhaul of the economic policy regime that has failed – – the policy regime that simply relies on the privatization, deregulation and liberalization of the various sectors of the economy without any clear vision of agro-industrial development and capacity building. This also means the long-overdue overhaul of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), which has failed to define and assert Philippine national interests in a globalizing world, and the Philippine Tariff Commission, which has failed to uphold the interests of local industry and agriculture even in the face of clear and patent unfair trade practices of other nations.

In Cancun, the thrust should be the issue of genuine development for a developing country like the Philippines in the global trading system and truly level the global trading field, not through the unequal 'equality' rules, but through a recognition of the varying levels of development of developing countries and the need for these countries to catch up in the development process.

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LAST month's good news of positive export growth has turned bad again. The latest export numbers from the National Statistics Office show a drop in July export earnings ($2.97 billion) compared to both the previous month ($3.06 billion) and to the same month last year ($3.22 billion). This indicates that our economic performance prospects in the short term remain rather tentative, and reinforces the usual caveat that one month's upturn doesn't make a trend. What is disturbing is that our neighbors who had been among the worst hit by the Asian financial crisis are now doing quite well on their exports. There seems to be something we haven't been doing right.

Too many eggs in one basket

ONCE more, the explanation for the export drop has been the steep decline in exports of electronics, comprising more than 65 percent of export earnings in July. This ratio had been about 55 percent in the 1990s, and even then, I was already sounding the alarm in the Ramos Cabinet about our vulnerability to a slowdown in a single export sector. Few people worried about this then, as the global information and communication technology (ICT) boom seemed to have no end in sight. Thus, when the slowdown did come soon after the turn of the millennium, it took a heavy toll on our country's overall export performance.

Likewise, we have traditionally been dominantly dependent on the United States as a destination for our exports, accounting for about a fourth of the total. Thus, our export performance has tended to mirror the ups and downs of the US economy through the years, including its sluggishness over the past two years. The latest export data show that our exports to the United States plummeted by 23 percent over the past year. Again, this is a clear contributor to the overall export decline.

Domestic value added: a thin slice

IT has also been a common lament since the 1990s that too much of our export earnings are coming from products that have very little domestic content. That is, our dominant export earners were products heavily based on imported raw materials, with only a thin slice of domestic value added coming almost entirely from the labor component. We can see this from the fact that while electronics and garments dominate our exports, electronic components and textiles also take a lion's share of our imports. For every dollar we earn from exports of such products, we also spend a big fraction of that dollar to buy the imported inputs. Thus, our people ultimately do not derive as much benefit from each million dollars' worth of our exports as, say, the Thais do.

Export performance and the exchange rate

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CONTEL at 10:

Leading the way in trunked radio communications

In 1993, Concepcion Telecom (Contel) was launched, targeting specifically the dispatch market and offering unlimited talk time at a flat rate.

Prior to the spin-off, Contel was operating as a division of Concepcion Industries, pioneering the trunked radio service with such customers as the Presidential Security Group (1989), ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation (1991) and GMA Network, Inc. (1992).

Since bagging the first Motorola Exclusive Distributorship in Southeast Asia in 1962, the Concepcion operation has been recognized as the industry expert in radio communications. It first sold conventional radio systems, also known as two-way radios. Later, as technology evolved, it went into selling trunked radio systems.

When the Motorola distributorship ceased to be exclusive in the 1990s, Contel was organized as a separate company and started offering trunked radio service by subscription. From an initial base of about a thousand radio units for 50 customers, Contel has grown its subscriptions to 15,000 units for 1000 customers.

Although the numbers have not been as spectacular as the growth seen in cellular phones, Contel President Raul Anthony "Ton" Concepcion said the trunked radio market is quite different altogether.

Jose Concepcion Sr., founder of Concepcion Industries and Robert W. Galvin, son of the founder of Motorola sign an exclusive Motorola Distrubutors Agreement, the first in South-East Asia, at the Concepcion Industries Headquarters in 1962.

"Ours is a niche market. Our customers are mostly in dispatch. They are team-based and need group call, monitoring and conferencing at a flat rate over a wide area. They use 250 minutes a month on the average. That clearly requires excellent service and a dependable network only Contel can satisfactorily provide," he said.

The Contel network is "high site, high power". This means it needs only five sites to cover the whole of Luzon.

"This is why no one can beat us in terms of price especially when it comes to group conferencing and monitoring. Our technology is uniquely built for the dispatch market," said Concepcion.

Raul T. Concepcion, Robert W. Galvin and Raul Anthony Concepcion at the Motorola Head Office at Schaumburg, Illinois

By comparison, the cellular model followed by other trunked radio operators is "low site, low power". This means the network provider has to put up relatively many more sites to cover the same area that Contel has successfully covered with five. This makes it expensive to provide the service and that is why customers get charged per minute for every 'cell' site used.

Throughout its first decade, Contel differentiated itself from competition through calculated expansion, exceptional reliability and its sterling reputation.

A deliberate kind of conservatism practiced for generations kept it intentionally debt-free unlike many telecom players that overbuilt on borrowed foreign currency.

"Corporate stability is our major strength. Contel survived the Asian financial crisis without being threatened by problems because of its discipline of focus. We consciously stuck to the basics, identified the niche we wanted and built on that rather than blindly follow costly industry fads," Concepcion said.

As for reliability, DHL, UPS, Lufthansa Technik Philippines and the SM group are only some of Contel's subscribers that rely on the company for their mission-critical operations. And as for reputation, its expertise in trunked radio and customer service is unparalleled.

"This is where I can really say that small is beautiful. Because we have much fewer subscribers than the billion-peso telecom players, we can really focus on delivering the best value and service to all our customers. We have a personalized service that gives time and attention to look after our clients' needs and wants," said Concepcion.

In fact, many Contel subscribers have been with the company from the start, delighted to continue the excellent business relationship for decades to come.☆

(ADVT)

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Gaming firm allocates ₱450M for farm lot project in Tagaytay

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEISURE estate and gaming firm Belle Corp. will earmark P450 million to develop its flagship project over the next two years, the 60-hectare farm lot subdivision Plantation Hills in Tagaytay.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Belle vice chair Willy Ocier said the company was preparing for the launch of the farm lot project, whose first phase should be completed by 2004.

The project, located in Tagaytay Greenlands (between the Highlands and Midlands), will offer 750 square meters of farm lot units.

"We've seen that our market, especially our members in Tagaytay Highlands, want their children to grow away from the hustle and bustle of the city and there's emphasis on going back to nature," Ocier said.

The project is envisioned to tap into the niche market of both the professional grower and the lifestyle farmer, offering lot buyers the opportunity for cut-flower, vegetable cultivation and other agricultural pursuits.

Ocier said the project would be funded by the company's internally generated cash.

Belle chief finance officer Manuel Gana added that the project would be done in two or three phases. He said the P450-million budget was a "soft" figure which could be changed if the company would modify the project.

Another attraction of Plantation Hills, Ocier said, was that it would be adjacent to a new sports center. He added that the subdivision would also have its own country club facility.

"The sports center will house a major badminton and racket sport facility. Majority will be badminton courts, as we plan to put up eight to 20 badminton courts and then two covered tennis courts," Ocier said.

The company has a landbank of 482.5 hectares, the bulk located in Tagaytay, south of Manila. Its core project, the plush Tagaytay Highlands, is a master-planned golf community project, which includes an 18-hole golf course, a country club, and other amenities. Belle offers four residential complexes (Pinecrest, The Villas, Belle View, and Woodlands) exclusively to golf and country club members.

On the gaming side, Belle is in talks with various parties for the use of the horse racing franchise of its 70-percent owned subsidiary Metro Manila Turf Club Inc.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of September 5, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.25	20,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	41,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43	42.5	42.5	850,900
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	340
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33	33	33	63,400
First E-Bank Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	29	28	28.5	77,600
Philippine National Bank	24	24	23.5	23.5	129,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	12.75	15,100
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	33,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	27	26.5	27	13,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	35,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1700	1700	320
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1205	1220	1205	1210	4,800
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	10,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.62	1,470,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	660	650	655	123,300
Ipeople Inc	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	2,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.047	11,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,630,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	580	595	580	595	182,300
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	180,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	20,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	13	12.75	13	284,100
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	356,300
Petron Corp.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.94	671,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	135,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	9,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	187,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	337,100
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	21,300
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	62	62.5	34,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,547,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	490,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	268,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	17,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.56	16,840,000
Basic Consolidated Inc	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.145	1,540,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.095	0.1	0.095	0.1	1,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	2,700,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17	208,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.105	0.105	2,310,000
Ionics Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.3	220,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	733,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	280,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	250,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.25	2,410,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	1	1.04	1	1.04	553,000
Solid Group Inc	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.1	0.0925	0.1	6,100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	110,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	690,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	28,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	1,027,000
Araneta Properties Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	60,000
C&P Homes Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	70,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	250,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,050,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1	1	1	1	1,540,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.2	1195	0.2	5,920,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	32,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	504,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industria	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	6,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc.	1,307,160	52,428,845.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	97,215,400	240,147,080.00
PRO	18,453,000	56,861,550.00
Mining	8,500,000	164,200.00
OIL	5,010,000	38,300.00
GRAND TOTALS	130,485,560	349,639,975.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	427.23	UP 2.07
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,811.47	UP 9.11
PRO	541.03	UP 2.76
Mining	1,239.80	UP 3.66
OIL	1.40	DOWN 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	796.82	UP 3.16
Composite	1,240.58	UP 6.71

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25, NO. OF DECLINES: 25, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84, NO. OF TRADES 1,284

Cocktales . . .

From page B3

to acknowledge in today's hearing that the P5-million MJ contribution did indeed go to his (Ignacio's) now closed "Jose Pidal" account in Union Bank, Perea branch.

Ignacio Arroyo's defense is that the P5 million was spent for "election-related" expenses, he being the Lakas chair for Western Visayas.

In addition to the cancelled check, Lacson is also trying to obtain from MJ more damning documents against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez about an alleged $2-million Impsa payoff, vigorously denied by Perez, in exchange for a legal opinion that allegedly facilitated the long-delayed approval of the Argentinian company's rehabilitation of the C-B-K power plant in Laguna.

Originating from Cayman Islands, the $2-million wire transfer eventually went through an overseas bank account of "investment banker" Ernest Escaler before the money bounced off in several tranches to different offshore accounts allegedly controlled by Perez.

According to the grapevine, Escaler's alibi is that the $2-million transmission and transfer to the alleged Perez accounts represented his having legitimately acquired Perez's orchid farm in Batangas.

Aboitizes vs Garcias

THE BOARDROOM row between the Aboitizes and the Garcias in the Visayan Electric Co. (Veco), Cebu's equivalent of Meralco, promises to be a repeat of the Aboitiz-Go Thong row in the WG&A shipping consortium that the Aboitizes eventually won after finally buying out at a premium the remaining Go Thong holdouts.

With more financial firepower and deeper bench of professional managers, the Aboitizes had managed to accumulate about 54.5-percent direct and indirect ownership of Veco shares from the other members of the extended Escaño-Garcia family as well as the Lhuillers until the other Garcias resorted to a share-swap agreement that threatens to dilute the Aboitiz holdings in Veco.

The swap scheme effectively transferred the control of Veco to Vivant, the publicly listed company of the Garcias.

The Garcias, mainly the children of brothers Vicente and Jose Garcia, had pulled the coup under the noses of the Aboitizes since they still control about 51 percent of Hijos de Escaño, the holding company that, in turn, owns 51 percent of Veco.

The Aboitizes have brought in Makati heavyweights from the Sycip Salazar law firm for the P613-million damage suit—the filing fee alone is supposed to be about P6.4 million—to reverse the Garcia share-swap scheme. The Garcias are, in turn, being advised by a local lawyer, Roberto Montalban.

The legal battle promises to be messy, according to the grapevine, especially if purchasing records and prices of Veco power lines and poles eventually get submitted in court.

The civil suit is set to be re-raffled this week, after the Cebu judge whom the case was initially assigned inhibited himself, having previously served as an Aboitiz counsel in his private practice.

Heard through the grapevine

PLDT CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan has practically bought out all the seats for the Sept. 13 gala concert of Canadian pop-jazz sensation Michael Buble at the Meralco Theater.

MVP apparently plans the Buble concert as the kick-off celebration for the 75th anniversary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

To those who do not belong to the PLDT A-list and the rest of the public who wish to watch Buble, the Sinatra-sound-alike still has a Sept. 18 concert at the Philippine International Convention Center.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB		450K
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		150K
CLUB FILIPINO		140K
FONTANA "D"	50K	
HACIENDA LUISITA "B"		150K
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250K	
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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)		1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"		70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	Please C.	
Camp John Hay		230,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"		80,000
Forest Hills "A"		200,000
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	210,000	240,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"		500,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club		450,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)		275,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	40,000
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"		275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		180,000
Rockwell		380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"		Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"		80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"		130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"		170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	Please Call
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	600,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valley Golf	280,000	300,000
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Breaktime . . .

From page B4

Bukidnon, Negros and Pagadian.

It is tapping the same farmers who used to do just a single crop, giving them the technology for new crops, plus a ready market, which is San Miguel.

Danding says that San Miguel will expand the scheme to other provinces, therefore raising the income of farmers. Then San Miguel can sell more beer to them.

* * *

DANDING says we must put the highest priority to the updating of our agriculture. Look at that, HIGHEST priority. It is not television soaps. It is not cell phones. It is food.

Actually, agriculture is the strength of the United States, aside from the capability of its nuclear armament to destroy the earth a hundred times over.

I mean, food is cheap in the United States. It is the same thing in China and in Vietnam.

Look, in those countries, they can produce food as ably as the way we invent reasons to hold congressional hearings.

Because food is cheap, people there still eat, whether they like it or not. Even if their workers get starvation pay, they don't actually starve. Can you see Danding's point?

7 banks OK $500-M . . .

From page B1

on, 10-year bond issue in November.

Monetary Board member Melito Salazar said the BSP borrowing would be released on Oct. 27, the same day the BSP would need to pay a $200-million maturing obligation.

The central bank will use $115 million of the loan proceeds to complete the payment for the loan falling due in October after it raised $85 million in March when it borrowed $585 million to settle a $500-million obligation in April.

"We would use the remaining amount to support the GIR (gross international reserves) while our obligations in 2004 are not yet due," the BSP chief said. The central bank has about $500 million in maturing obligations next year.

Clarissa S. Batino

No Free Lunch

From page B5

Why did our dependence on export products with high import content grow through the 1990s? A key answer lies in the way we allowed the real value of the peso to rise in that period. Monetary policy at the time had the effect of keeping the exchange rate virtually constant (i.e. at around P26.50 to $1) for too long, even while our general price level was rising much faster than those of our main trading partners. In other words, our currency was losing actual value or purchasing power faster than the currencies of our trading partners and competitors—and yet we did not allow this to be reflected in a rising exchange rate. In short, the peso's real value grew relative to other currencies.

This made imports cheaper relative to domestic goods, including domestic inputs. It became more attractive to import than to export. It also became more attractive to export products with high import content than those with high domestic content. Not surprisingly, electronics and wearing apparel topped the list of our exports, while agricultural exports declined in importance. As mentioned above, the share of electronics to total export earnings rose from 55 percent in the 1990s to about 65 percent now, a logical result under the circumstances. And yet this was the exact opposite of what should have happened for the sake of reduced vulnerability.

Recent trends

NOW that the Asian financial crisis has greatly depreciated the region's currencies, and strong speculative forces have made our peso depreciate even faster than the rest, we ought to be seeing the opposite effect. Exports of highly import intensive products are now less attractive, while the imported inputs have become much more expensive. But exports of products with high domestic content have become very competitive and more lucrative. Thus, the latter export products would be expected to rise, while the former type would be expected to decline.

Is this in fact happening? The answer is yes. The export products on the decline are electronics and wearing apparel (-11.1 percent and 10.4 percent respectively), while the export products which have been growing by double digits are marine products and carrageenan (37.1 percent), processed food and beverages (25.8 percent) and home furnishings (19.8 percent)—all exports with high domestic content. Unfortunately, the decline in electronics and garments still dominates the overall picture. But the silver lining behind our currency's weakness is that our export numbers are now moving in the direction of greater diversification, and therefore less vulnerability.

Comments may be sent to chabito@ateneo.edu

Cancelled orders ...

From page B1

expose of Sen. Panfilo Lacson against First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, the persistent coup rumors and politicking for the 2004 elections for the expected drop in its full-year export revenue.

Other concerns CBWOI has raised were complicated trade procedures in the Bureau of Customs that cause delays in business operations and the significantly high labor and electricity cost.

Currencies

September 5, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.913325	1.000000	54.764000
Japan	Yen	0.007826	0.008569	0.469300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444789	1.581900	86.631200
Hongkong	Dollar	0.117112	0.128226	7.022200
Switzerland	Franc	0.650563	0.712301	39.008500
Canada	Dollar	0.666418	0.729661	39.959200
Singapore	Dollar	0.519998	0.569346	31.179700
Australia	Dollar	0.584080	0.639509	35.022100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.422678	2.652590	145.266400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.243547	0.266660	14.603400
Brunei	Dollar	0.518522	0.567730	31.091200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022386	0.024510	1.342300
UAE	Dirham	0.248687	0.272287	14.911500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.094900	59.961100
Argentina	Peso	0.308556	0.337838	18.501400
Brazil	Real	0.310655	0.340136	18.627200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134613	0.147388	8.071600
India	Rupee	0.019898	0.021786	1.193100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.240381	0.263193	14.413500
Mexico	New Peso	0.084146	0.092132	5.045500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518758	0.567988	31.105300
Norway	Kroner	0.121511	0.133042	7.285900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015856	0.017361	0.950800
South Africa	Rand	0.125976	0.137931	7.553700
Korea	Won	0.000778	0.000852	0.046700
Sweden	Kroner	0.109595	0.119996	6.571500
Syria	Pound	0.021746	0.023810	1.303900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026846	0.029394	1.609700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000573	0.000627	0.034300

Interest Rates

September 05, 2003-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 5-Sep-03	MART1 4-Sep-03
1 Month	6.2732	6.3161
3 Months	6.2821	6.3696
6 Months	6.8036	6.8073
1 Year	8.3946	8.3733
2 Years	9.7464	9.7867
3 Years	10.3308	10.3961
4 Years	10.7196	10.7483
5 Years	11.1107	11.1267
7 Years	11.5214	11.5288
10 Years	11.8964	11.8983
20 Years	12.2875	12.3083
25 Years	12.4569	12.4981

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Investors offer to buy banks' NPLs at big discount

By Elena R. Torrijos

INVESTORS have offered to purchase local banks' non-performing assets at a discount of as much as 90 percent partly due to perceptions that the Philippine legal system was "risky."

Higinio Macadaeg, chief credit officer of the United Coconut Planters Bank, told reporters last week that investors have offered to buy the banks' non-performing assets at only 10 to 20 centavos per peso because of significant legal risks.

As a result, banks have been discouraged from selling their bad assets, despite the passage earlier this year of the Special Purpose Vehicle Act providing incentives for banks to do so.

Macadaeg added that investors were "not very happy with the final version of the SPV law."

Bankers Association of the Philippines president Cesar Virata added that:."The price issue is something the banks cannot accept. It's a very deep discount."

Metrobank executive vice president and chief finance officer Alfredo Javellana II added that the banks were disappointed by the legislators' decision to strike out a proposed provision in the SPV law that would have prevented the issuance of temporary restraining orders related to the sale of banks' bad assets to a special purpose vehicle.

The SPV law provides that the transfer of non-performing assets from a financial institution to an SPV and from an SPV to a third party are exempt from capital gains tax and other taxes.

Banks, however, had also wanted foreclosures by SPVs or financial institutions to be provided tax incentives as this would have encouraged the sale of bad loans and not just acquired assets.

No bank has so far agreed to sell its NPAs as envisioned under the SPV law.

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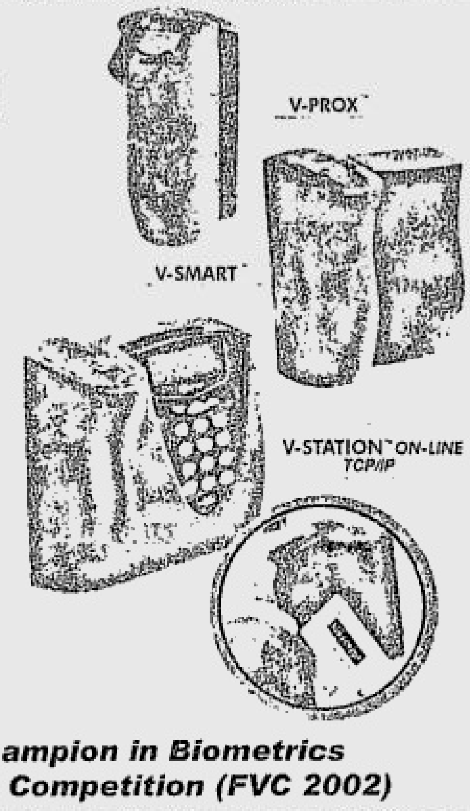

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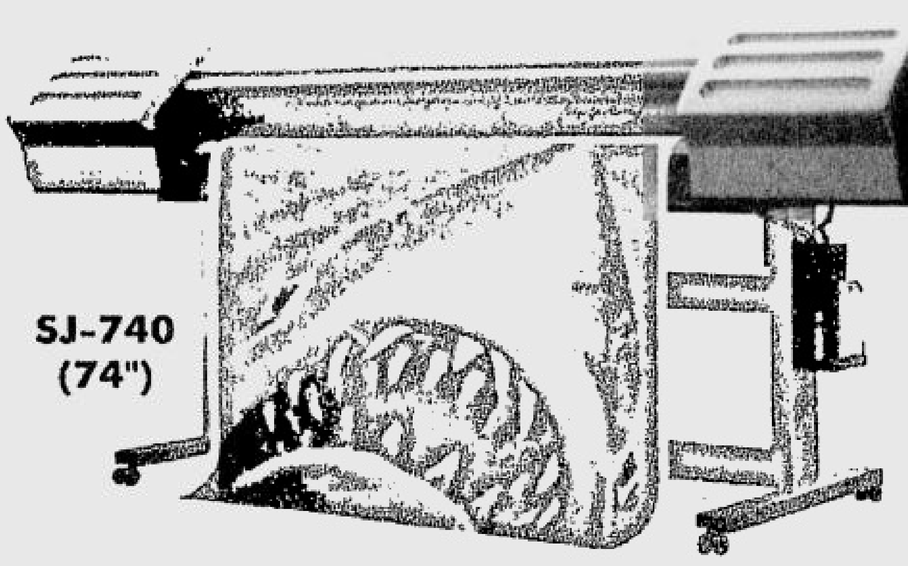

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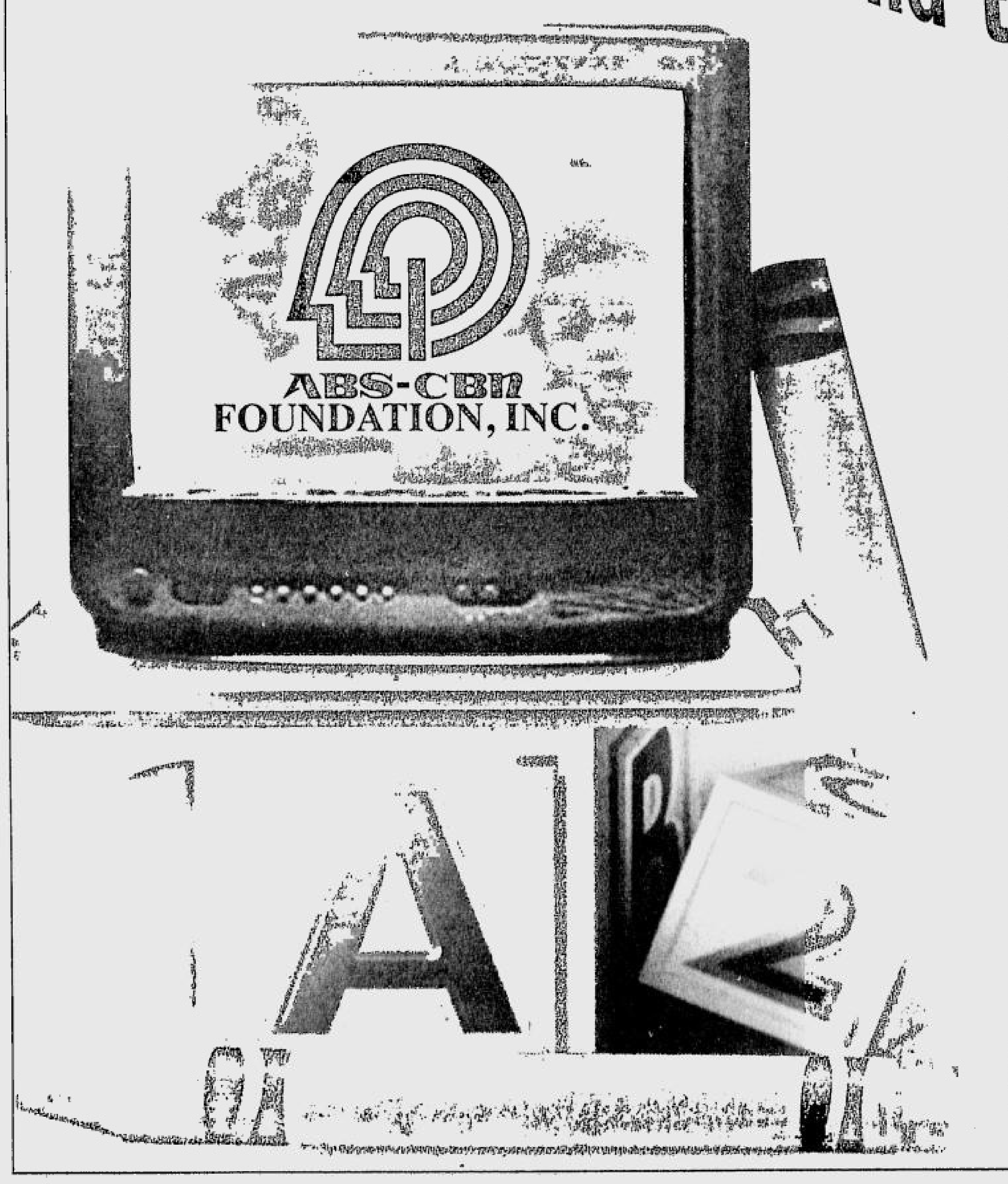

1990

BIRTH OF THE FIRST MEDIA-BASED ORGANIZATION FOR THE FILIPINO CHILD

More than creating viable entertainment programs and providing up-to-the minute news and information, ABS-CBN's heart and soul lie in being of service to Filipinos.

Relief operations for the victims of the 16 July 1990 Luzon earthquake spawned the ABS-CBN Foundation, which institutionalized the network's commitment to public service. Since then, the Foundation has evolved into a first-of-its-kind media endeavor dedicated towards providing a better world for Filipino children.

With the launch of the critically acclaimed *Sineskwela* in 1994, the network veritably committed itself to the education of its young viewers. *Sineskwela*'s success in teaching science and technology inspired five other shows designed to help Filipino students in understanding specific subject areas. Along with *Sineskwela*, the network continues to regularly air *Hirayamanawari*, *Bayani*, *Mathtinik*, *Epol/Apple* and *Pahina*. To this day, no other local network has been as serious in its campaign for the education of the Filipino child.

Advocating the protection of children's rights, the Foundation established Bantay Bata 163 in 1997, the first and only child abuse intervention program in the Philippines. It operates a 24-hour hotline that provides easy access to efficient and immediate response to Filipino children in crisis.

ABS-CBN Foundation's *Bantay Kalikasan*, the first environmental media watchdog in the Philippines, was launched the next year with a mission to protect and rehabilitate the environment. Its first major undertaking was the highly- successful "*Yes to Clean Air Signature Campaign*" which was able to gather 5 million signatures in support of the ratification of the Philippine Clean Air Act.

Media magnate and ABS-CBN owner Eugenio 'Geny' Lopez Jr. advocated the business philosophy of "public service ---doing well by doing good." Through the full utilization of its media resources to positively influence society, ABS-CBN affirms the essence of its existence...to be of service to Filipinos.

50 YEARS
ABS-CBN TELEVISION
SINCE 1953

In The Service Of The Filipino

BSP to review external debt payments target

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to review its external payments target following a substantial drop in export receipts in the first seven months, which can cut the country's current account surplus and bloat the balance-of-payments deficit.

Based on an expected 5-percent growth in exports this year, the central bank had estimated the country's current account position to hit a surplus of $2.356 billion by the end of the year while the BOP deficit was estimated to remain within the $1.13-billion target.

The current account and BOP targets are important in drawing up the BSP's defense of the peso. A declining dollar inflow puts pressure on the country's external reserves, which adversely affects the peso.

"We may have to review the numbers, particularly the current account, in light of recent developments that saw a drop in exports," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Export receipts in July contracted by 7.9 percent to $2.97 billion against a year ago. Exports in the first seven months grew by only 0.5 percent to $20.04 billion.

Buenaventura, however, stressed that exporters had assured the BSP last month that robust growth in sales in the second half would allow the industry to hit the 5-percent growth target this year. But the assurance came before the July numbers were announced.

"I am still hoping that exports would recover strongly starting August," said the BSP chief.

As of May, the current account surplus had narrowed down to $330 million from $1.851 billion a year ago due to a widening trade deficit during the period that saw imports growing faster than exports.

But the trade gap may have tightened in July as imports also shrunk when the peso weakened against the dollar.

Reflecting the movement in the country's trade, current account covers trade in goods and services, net rent, interest, profits and dividends. It also includes fund transfers such as overseas workers' remittances.

RP insurance sector seen over-taxed

By Elena R. Torrijos

AN EXTENSIVE study on life insurance shows that removing or reducing existing taxes imposed on the sector will spur growth in the country's gross domestic product—the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy.

According to the study conducted by economists Edwin Pineda, Vincent Angeles and Bernardo Villegas for the Center for Research and Communication Foundation Inc., a P100-million tax rebate for the life insurance industry would result in a P131-million increase in nominal GDP.

Lower costs and higher insurance benefits from tax concessions are expected to promote private investment and consumption, which in turn, can also lead to increased GDP.

At present, the life insurance industry is burdened by a slew of taxes, such as the 5 percent premium tax, a documentary stamp tax, 20 percent tax on interest income, taxes on sales of shares of stocks and real estate, value-added tax on the purchase of goods and services and the 32 percent corporate income tax.

Life insurance companies, through the Philippine Life Insurance Association, have long been pushing for the abolition of the premium tax and a reduction of the DST.

In an interview, PLIA president Jose Cuisia Jr. said: "If we remove the premium tax and reduce the DST, we can bring down the cost of insurance for everyone."

PLIA said results of the study fully supported the rationale behind pending bills in Congress removing or reducing the premium tax and the DST imposed on life insurance policies.

"Aside from measurable monetary benefits, there appear to be additional social benefits from the industry based on global experience. And these benefits can accrue to society partly on the basis of concessionary tax policies," the CRCFI study said.

One benefit is that life insurance may substitute for the declining state-provided social security programs, which can be attributed to financial constraints experienced by the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

The study also observed that in making large-scale investments, life insurers also encourage economies-of-scale, promote specialization and stimulate technical innovations for the efficient allocation of scarce capital.

Heavy taxes have stunted the growth of life insurance in the Philippines. Compared with its neighbors in Asia, the Philippines has the lowest insurance penetration rate and lowest level of insurance awareness, the study bared.

Food processors seek cut in sugar prices

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINE Food Processors and Exporters Inc. (Philfodex) is asking sugar producers for a discount of P100 for every 50-kilo bag of sugar sold to the food manufacturing industry.

Philfodex, the organization of small and medium scale firms engaged in food processing and exporting, made the request in a petition sent to the Philippine Sugar Millers Association and other local sugar producers.

Food producers are seeking a reduction in the prices of sugar from P7000 per 50-kilo bag to P600 to help reduce their cost of production.

The sugar industry earlier agreed to earmark one-half percent of its annual production for sale to local food manufacturers at a discount. Last year, the sugar industry had allotted 100,000 metric tons for sale to food manufacturers at P700 per bag, lower than then prevailing price of P830 to P850 per 50-kilo bag.

"This (the price discount sought) needs to be discussed and negotiated by industry members," Sugar Regulatory Authority Administrator James Ledesma told the INQUIRER last week.

Ledesma added that the food manufacturers had availed themselves of some 65,000 metric tons of the sugar allocated to them last year.

Creating new niches in the local market is one of the marketing strategies being explored by the sugar industry in anticipation of an oversupply next year.

"This will keep domestic sugar prices stable since a glut in production usually pulls down prices of sensitive commodities like sugar," he noted.

The extravagant SSS—Part 1

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

AS PART of its 46th anniversary celebration, the Social Security System ran centerfold ads last week in the major dailies. The huge ads (paid for, of course, by hard-earned contributions of poor members) left a lot of things unsaid about the true state of affairs.

For example, the ad said nothing about the horrendous operating expenses. Let us analyze this most sensitive part of the budget. In the Commission on Audit report for 2002, operating expense is broken up into (a) personnel Services and (b) other expenses. According to the COA, the breakdown of personnel services is as follows:

Salaries and wages	P1,625,834,418
Bonus	271,282,363
Provident fund contributions	245,465,251
GSIS premiums	194,622,458
Incentive award	162,661,030
Service bureau expenses	145,971,003
Medical benefits	71,536,914
Christmas expenses	60,087,500
Economic relief allowance	45,692,690
Rice grant	44,116,365
Clothing allowance	30,942,839
Terminal leave pay	30,329,487
Foreign service allowance	20,882,882
Gratuity benefits	18,877,134
Overtime pay	8,754,725
Hazards pay and tellers allowance	7,925,188
Loyalty award	6,188,000
Medicare contributions	5,861,531
Pag-ibig Fund contributions	4,692,071
Subsistence allowance	3,418,126
EC contributions	1,402,379
Housing allowance	1,064,510
Extraordinary and misc. expenses	750,000
Anniversary expenses	331,145
Extra hazard premium	277,956
Total	P3,008,967,965

For a total employee force of 3,942, salaries and wages averaged at a staggering P412,439 per employee.

Then, please note the raft of fringe benefits sweetens this already bloated salary scale. Excluding statutory contributions to the GSIS, Pag-IBIG, Philhealth and employees compensation, all the other goodies in the above list come up to P1,176,555,108, equal to an incredible 72.4 percent of salaries and wages. In the private sector, non-statutory fringe benefits are kept at no more than 20 percent of basic salaries and wages.

If we add the statutory contributions, the total fringe benefits rise to an astronomical 85.1 percent of salaries and wages.

In absolute amounts, the non-statutory fringe benefits shower each employee with an astounding P369,034 in additional income, actual and potential. The statutory contributions add another P52,404 per employee.

All in all, each employee cost the SSS an average of an unbelievable P736,309.

The grand total amount for personnel services of P3,008,067,565 was a whopping P102,299,260 more than the previous year. This, at the time when contributions were no longer enough to pay members' benefits.

No employer-member of the SSS, even such industrial giants as San Miguel and the major oil companies, can afford such extravagance. You can scan the entire universe and you will never find an employer half as profligate as the SSS. *(More of this horror story next week.)*

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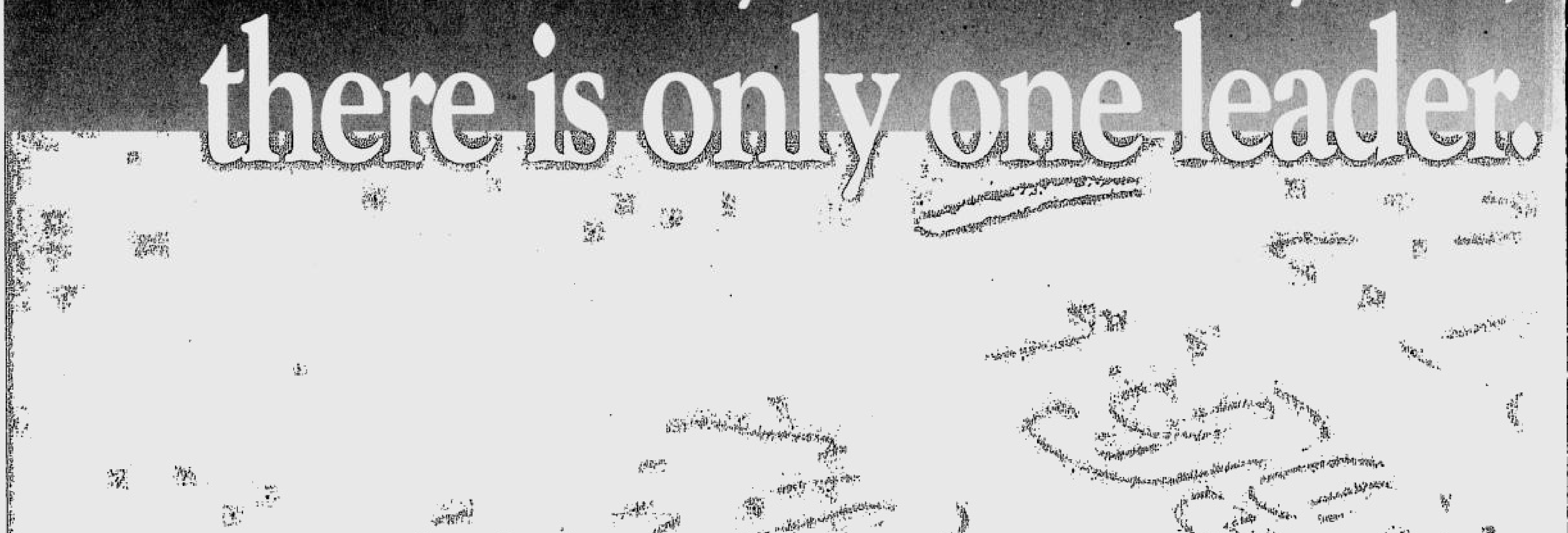

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Aboitiz to combine transport firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ABOITIZ group will consolidate shipping line William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. with its other transport-related businesses before selling more WG&A shares to the public.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. executive vice president Erramon Aboitiz said: "The idea is in the next few years we spread the ownership and offer shares to the public. The surviving entity shall be WG&A."

"It probably makes sense to put all of the transport businesses into one instead of the air cargo being owned by one company and then the forwarding and logistics by another," he said.

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- ECONOMIC PROFIT AND VALUE CREATION FOCUSING ON SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATIONS - Florencio Valdez
- STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN COLLABORATION THROUGH PURCHASING STRATEGIC THRUST - Ramon Guevara, C P M DSM
- IMPLEMENTATION OF PAPERLESS ORDER PICKING SYSTEMS Carsten Spingelberg

Day 2, Sept 19 (Friday)

- EMERGENCE OF SUPPLY NETWORK EXECUTION - Cyril Ng
- TRANSPORT LOGISTICS IN THE PHILIPPINE SETTING - Sabin Aboitiz
- SUPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN THE BOARDROOM How Logistics and Supply Chain Decision Impact the Bottomline Bjorn Vang Jensen
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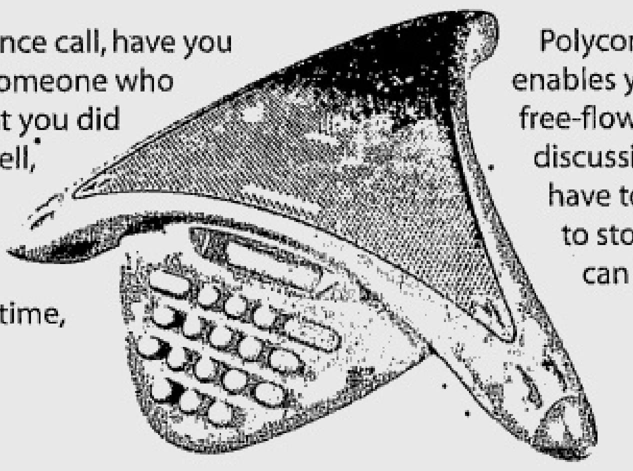

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She wept quietly and sometimes secretly.
She spoke softly.
She was generous, kind, and compassionate to EVERYBODY.
She was educated.
She was updated in current affairs.
She believed that she had a duty to spread the Word of God, and she acted accordingly.
She kept her promises.
She spoke only the truth.
She was unwavering in her values.
She survived a War and countless revolutions.
She danced in her youth.
She never cursed.
She saw God and Good in every face.
She praised every soul; if she could not praise someone she let them pass out of her life.
She revealed God in her.
She loved our family – unconditionally, irrepressibly, and unquestionably.
She was devoted to her husband: JUAN EUGENIO (JOHNNY) E. ARROYO (†).
She was proud of her children: ANGELA and CESAR VILLANUEVA; MAYA and FRED SANTIANO (†); BONG and HEINZ STAUB; NICKY; BUTCH and LINCE; JOY and BOBBY GUEVARA; and SUSIE.
She spoiled her grandchildren: JOCELYN and BRUCE; ARIEL, DAX, and JAM; GINO; SUGAR and JON, CARINA, CHRIS, ADDI, and BOOM.
She let God emancipate her.
She let her life be that of a rose. . .
Through silence, she spoke in the language of fragrance.

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Mourns the Passing Away of Their
Chairman of the Board

COMMANDER
SY KUN

Chairman Emeritus Confederation of Filipino-Chinese Veterans

Peacefully joined our Lord in Heaven on September 3, 2003 at the age of 92.
His loved ones gravely mourn his loss.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment will be on Sunday, September 14, 2003,
8:00 a.m. at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

In loving memory of
CONSTANCIA T. CONSTANTINO

November 26, 1906 – September 06, 2003

Loving and self less daughter to **Victor** (†) and **Catalina** (†);
spouse to **Arsenio** (†) whom she now joins;
mother to **Arsenio, Jr.** (†), **Marcelino, Alfonso, Ildefonso** (†)
and **Aurora**; mentor and friend to many.
She shall be dearly missed.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel C-12a La Funeraria Paz,
143 G. Araneta Avenue cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 at
San Ildefonso Cemetery, San Ildefonso, Bulacan
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at San Ildefonso Church,
San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

LETICIA M. PEREZ

of San Juan, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Lord
and her brother ***Dr. Pedro M. Perez***
on September 7, 2003 at the age of 70.

The bereaved family: sisters **Imelda P. Katigbak, Corazon M. Perez**; brother-in-law **Tony Katigbak**; sister-in-law **Dr. Carmen S. Perez**; nephew, nieces and grandchildren mourn her passing and request prayers for her eternal repose.

Her body lies in state at her residence in San Juan, Batangas.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

EMMANUEL SALVADOR M. TOBIAS

"KONG"

Joined his Creator
on September 6, 2003 at the age of 35.

His wife **VIOLY**; children **FRANCES** and **KYLE**; his loving parents **ATTY. RUBEN TOBIAS** and **LOURDES**; brothers and sisters **RUBEN JR.** and **JOY**, **CRISTINA** and **MIKE**, **CARMELLA** and **NOEL**, **RUBEN III**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel B-8, La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, September 12, 2003 at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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>
> John 3:16

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E-mail addresses: rbasallo@pnoc-ec.com.ph • infotech@pnoc-ec.com.ph
or purch@pnoc-ec.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites eligible suppliers to submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of:

ONE (1) UNIT PRIMARY SERVER AND ITS ACCESSORIES
PR NO. IT 235 306

Bid documents shall be available for issuance starting **September 8, 2003**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PESOS: Three Hundred (PhP 300.00)**.

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on **September 17, 2003, 2:00 p.m.**, Manila time, at **Bldg. I Conference Room** of the above stated address.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount stipulated in the tender documents in the form acceptable to PNOC EC. Sealed technical and financial bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the PNOC EC Purchasing not later than **September 26, 2003, 2:00 p.m.**, Manila time, at the above stated address. Late bids shall not be accepted. Public opening of the technical and financial bids shall follow thereafter. Only the bids of the technically complying bidders shall be opened.

The approved budget for the project, which shall be sourced from Company funds, is PhP 1,760,000.00. Delivery of the above equipment to PNOC EC, Bldg. I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila shall be on or before November 7, 2003.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) RUFINO B. BOMASANG
President & CEO

(PDI – September 8, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Palawan
Municipality of Taytay
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Municipality of Taytay, Province of Palawan invites all pre-qualified contractors, Category ''Medium Sub-Class B'' to bid for the following project: Construction of Public Market two-storey building, with dimension of 20.00 m x 31.00 m. (Labor & Materials) located at Poblacion, Taytay, Palawan.

Approved budget for the contract to be bid is P16,000,000.00.

Submission and opening of bids will be on **September 18, 2003** at 10:00 AM at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall.

The municipality reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informality in the bids required, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by MPBAC, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO V. RODRIGUEZ
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – September 8, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL NORTE
Gov. Arsenio A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center
Tubod, Lanao del Norte

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte through its **Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)**, invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the completion of the construction of **Three-Storey Provincial Capitol Building (Phase II)**, located in Capitol Complex, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

Application is open to all firms classified and registered with the Inter-Agency Committee as "Large A" in Buildings and Industrial Plants.

Interested contractors who wished to be pre-qualified must submit Letter of Intent and a photocopy of Contractor's License. Contractor's License must be unexpired before Pre-qualification, Bidding, and Award and during the duration of the Project. Only pre-qualified contractors will be invited to participate in the bidding.

Pre-qualification forms will be made available for issuance starting **September 11, 2003 to September 24, 2003** at the BAC office, Provincial Capitol, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)**. All documents must be submitted and received by the BAC Office **not later than 5:00 P.M. on September 30, 2003**. Applicants requiring additional information should forward their queries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
Office of the Provincial Governor
Provincial Capitol, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte
Tel. No. (063) 341-4005 (Dennis)
Fax No. (063) 341-5345

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any or all informalities therein and to make an award who is found most capable in the execution of the work.

(Sgd.) IMELDA QUIBRANZA-DIMAPORO
Provincial Governor

(PDI – September 8, 15, & 22, 2003)

Globe unblocks WAP sites

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

LOCAL carrier Globe Telecom has bowed down to consumer pressure when it silently "unblocked" access to some wireless application protocol (WAP) sites outside of company's "myGlobe" portal.

In an interview, a Globe spokesperson confirmed that the operator has unblocked access to some WAP sites, such as Yahoo! and INQ7.net, as well as other sites as part of "rationalization efforts" of the carrier's network.

Jones Campos, assistant vice president for public relations of Globe, reiterated that the company is doing its best to address customer needs, saying that it is "doing its best to address the problem."

"As we've said, we're in a transition phase. We're trying to rationalize everything. We're not really shutting out information to consumers. We would like to be as truthful as possible to them," Campos said.

On August 29, Globe started limiting access to some WAP sites due to "network congestion." This prompted the carrier to institutionalize the subscriber access block to WAP sites outside MyGlobe. This came after months of deliberations, Campos said.

Prior to this development, Globe subscribers were given free and unlimited access to mobile WAP sites up until midnight of Aug. 29, 2003.

The executive said that the carrier aims to solve the problem by next week.

"Gradually, we're opening access to some WAP sites. We're starting with Yahoo!," he added.

As a result of the access block on other WAP sites, online information and service resources such as Google, ESPN, INQ7.net and even WAP e-mail via Hotmail can no longer be used by Globe subscribers. Instead, Globe subscribers can only use WAP services on MyGlobe such as ring tones, wallpapers and logos.

WAP is a communications protocol that allows people to browse stripped-down or "text-versions" of websites through a mobile phone.

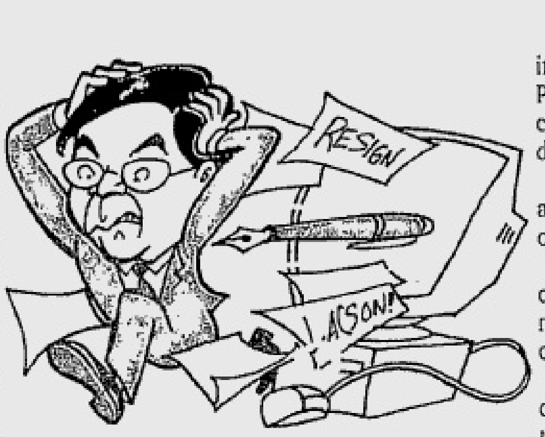
Since Globe launched its General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network in 2001, WAP browsing has become an experience more similar to regular Internet browsing. WAP can also be accessed through the slower and more expensive GSM network.

Globe has been offering WAP browsing using the GPRS network for free to both pre- and post-paid subscribers of Globe since last year.

In an earlier interview, Campos hinted that Globe might start charging subscribers for using the service soon.

Online petition calls for Ping's resignation

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva



AN ONLINE petition calling for the resignation of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson has begun, INQ7.net learned Thursday.

Started by Emmanuel Amador, a vocal consumer advocate, the online petition is gradually attracting more people by word of mouth and through Philippine mailing lists, such as the progressivetimes@yahoogroups.com.

Amador said that the idea behind the online petition was partly inspired by discussions on the "progressive times" discussion list, where he is a member.

"There have been discussions about the Senator (Lacson). So I thought: 'Why don't I start it?' I searched for a free online service and worked on the petition," Amador added.

The online petition reads: "Sen. Panfilo 'Ping' Lacson is unfit to be a senator of the Republic of the Philippines. His accusations against other Filipinos, which he refuses to bring to court and done behind the skirt of parliamentary immunity, are a waste of the Senate's time and taxpayers' money. They appear to be mere ploys to draw attention away from the investigation of the grave crimes of which he is suspected, which include kidnapping and murder."

"He is creating an atmosphere of political instability which has grave effects on the Philippine economy. Senator Lacson should cease his shameless actions and resign immediately," the online petition added.

Amador stressed that the online petition is a private initiative meant to vent out his and other peoples' frustrations.

"This whole exercise at the Senate ticks me off. How can they allow this kind of foolishness to continue? It is causing instability to our government," he added.

Amador said that the online petition was created on Wednesday, and so far, he was able to gather more than 20 signatures.

"I hope to gather more signatures before I submit it to the Senate. I think somebody has to speak up. When I begun this I was afraid that there would be some repercussions. But I'm no politician. I have nothing to protect. This is purely a personal initiative," he said.

Alleged 'Blaster' author loves PCs, Megadeath

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

JEFFREY Lee Parson, 18, seems like a regular American teenager who loves playing around computers and listening to heavy metal music by Judas Priest and Megadeath, as well as Weird Al Yankovic.

Parson, however, is no regular kid. On Aug. 29, 2003, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested him for allegedly unleashing the most destructive variant of a virus known as "Blaster," according to anti-virus firm Sophos.

The American teenager is said to have run a website where viruses were made available for download alongside lyrics of songs by Judas Priest, Megadeth and Weird Al Yankovic, Sophos added.

Sophos said that the 6-foot-4 Parson appeared in court in St. Paul, Minnesota, wearing a faded t-shirt bearing the words "Big Daddy," and cargo shorts and sneakers. He decided not to enter a plea but was placed under house arrest.

The 320-pound Parson was arrested after government authorities raided his home, where several computers were seized, Sophos said.

According to Sophos, authorities believe that Parson used the online handle "teekid" or "t33kid" and was allegedly the author of the modified Blaster worm identified as "W32/Blaster-B."

Parson's worm, however, was a different variant of the Blaster worm that caused major network problems worldwide last month, Sophos said.

W32/Blaster-B is a technical equivalent of its predecessor W32/Blaster-A. The former, however, creates a file called "teekids.exe" rather than "msblast.exe" in the Windows system folder, Sophos said.

Parson's version also creates a different registry entry and includes some offensive text

ALLEGED/B15

Silent Hill 3: Not as creepy but still dark and disturbing

By Leo Magno

LET'S get things straight, first of all. I am a horror fan. I love scary movies and, admittedly, don't get scared by poorly produced horror movies anymore.

However, having yourself become part of the story is another thing. In an interactive medium like a horror video game, you can't tell the stupid actor not to open that door or yell at the big-bosomed bimbo not to go into that dark alley just because she heard something out there. You can't tell them what to do because, in a video game, you're the actor.

Playing Konami's Silent Hill 3 for the PS2 is something like that. You know you don't want to go down those dark stairs or you don't want to turn that corner, but you have to if you want to finish the game and the story.

Silent Hill 3 is the third installment in Konami's popular franchise. And although it lacks the originality of Silent Hill 1 on the PlayStation in 1999 and Silent Hill 2 for the PS2 and the Xbox in 2001, it still packs a lot of eerie moments that you won't find in other video games.

This game is not your typical survival horror game, and is often—yet unfittingly—compared with Capcom's Resident Evil survival horror series. The Silent Hill series does not provide the frenetic zombie-shooting action found in Resident Evil, but instead slowly creeps into the psyche of the player by serving up a buffet of eerie music, disturbing visuals and a twisted plot.

I played Silent Hill 2: Restless Dreams on the Xbox and was introduced to the strange town called Silent Hill through the game's main character, James Sunderland. James is a slow runner and tires easily, but he's got some real wicked issues in that head of his which made the storyline riveting. I don't think I'd spoil anything by saying it out right now since Silent Hill 2's already three years old, so here goes: James is a sick mother who went to Silent Hill because he got a letter from his dead wife asking him to go there, but in the end you'll realize the guy's crazy and that he was the one who actually killed his wife. So there.

The plot of Silent Hill 3 isn't that original, and this time around you play 17-year-old Heather, who by the way is also a slow walker and runner. Damn—these Silent Hill characters are so slow. It makes me feel like Konami designed them that way so you'd have a harder time and a scarier moment trying to run away from the freaks you encounter in town.

Claustrophobia

Unlike the first two Silent Hill games, however, this time around Heather doesn't start in the town of Silent Hill but in-

SILENT/B15

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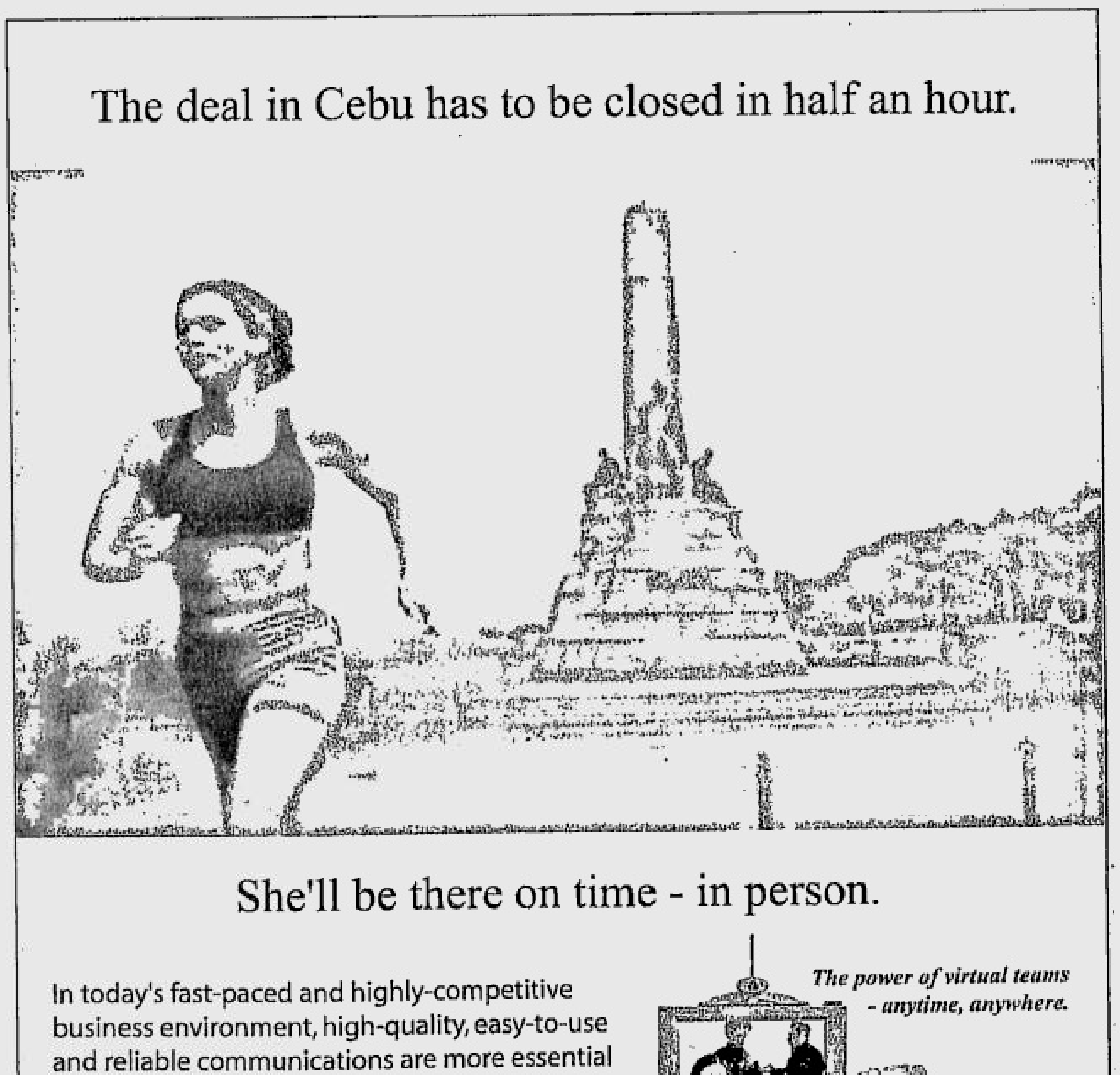
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Silent Hill 3: Not as creepy but still dark and disturbing

From page B14

stead starts the tale in her hometown. She'd find herself transported into this creepy parallel universe, die after encountering some monsters and then wake up in the mall. She'd then alternately go back and forth into parallel universes where the mall changes in really freaky ways.

In Silent Hill 2, James starts off in town and explores fog-covered forest trails, creepy streets and other places outside of buildings. In Silent Hill 3, Heather starts off in a dark mall with blood-spattered walls—making the start of the game darker and rather claustrophobic. Eventually, Heather would end up in Silent Hill where the rest of the story unfolds.

Silent Hill 2, originally for the PS2 and then ported to the Xbox, had great visuals, which made me doubt if Silent Hill 3 would live up to the Xbox version's detailed graphics. Surprisingly, Silent Hill 3 on the PS2 showed a lot of graphical improvements and detail in the facial animations. It even has real-time cut scenes.

The visuals in Silent Hill 3—or for any Silent Hill game for that matter—are what make this franchise disturbing and easily the creepiest series out there. You'd go down dark halls, go through rooms with blood-stained walls, run across areas littered by definitely freaky and mutated monsters, and generally try to survive as you ingest the gloom and doom of your environment. This scare tactic works doubly well with the amount of detail Konami threw into Silent Hill 3, even more than the previous two versions. Some of the areas are darker, bloodier and dirtier. You'd even see it in the tiles on the wall or the floor or in the mirrors hanging on walls.

The dark visuals in this game are magnified by the equally creative way by which Konami inserted accompanying audio to the game. Every now and then you'd hear a noise, a blood-curdling scream, doorknobs being opened, doors creaking and objects banging about—leading you to think that something sinister is about to happen. And, just as you thought something evil your way comes, nothing does. It is this unpredictability that keeps you on the edge with Silent Hill 3 and puts the series in a league of its own.

Silent Hill also makes good use of the mixture of silence where you would hear only the sound of your echoing footsteps and the frantic static you hear on your radio when a monster is near. Just a pin drop would make you whirl around and try to see what's coming toward you, but at the same time the jarring sound effects when you're being chased or when you're in battle would rattle you a bit.

Still on audio, Silent Hill 3 has great voice acting—even the facial animations go well with the script.

Same old gameplay

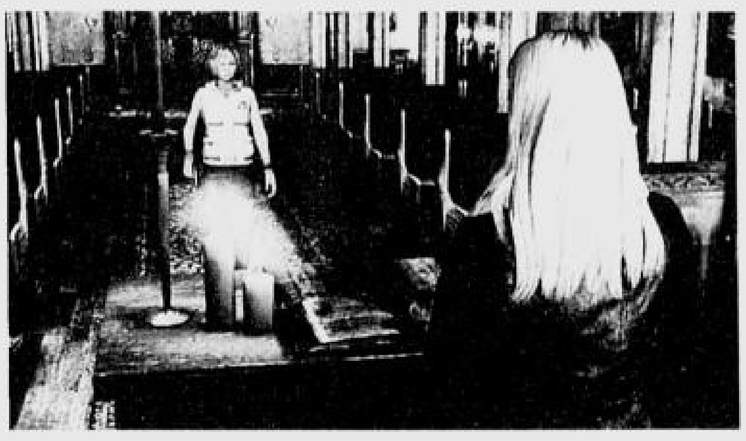
Now, check out the opening video. Aside from the good soundtrack that goes with it, you'd notice that the opening video is already disturbing. Some of the images in the opening video are fast and disjointed, reminding me of the video tape of death in "The Ring." Some of the heads of the mutated beings in the video even shake inhumanly fast, like the ones captured on video in "The House on Haunted Hill." Disturbing, indeed.

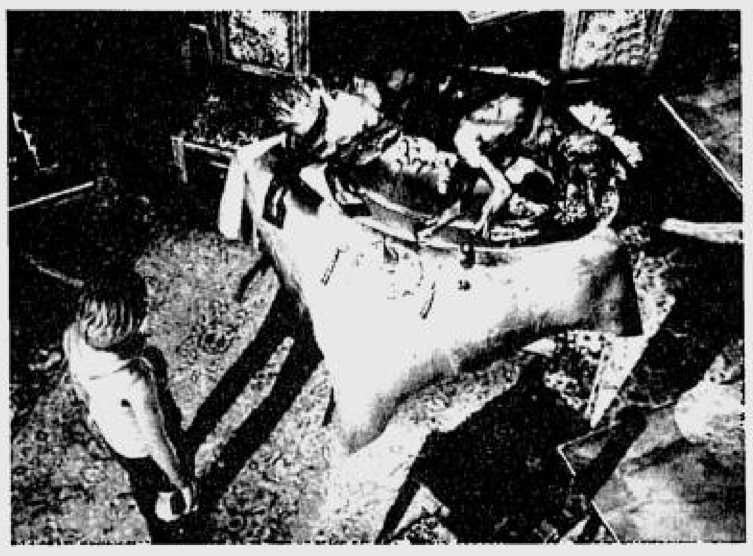
But let's go beyond the graphics, the audio and the spook factor. How's the gameplay?

Sadly, the gameplay of Silent Hill 3 offers nothing new. If you've played Silent Hill before, you can just pick this one up and start rolling. It's still a mixture of shooting down freaky monsters or clubbing them to death with a lead pipe, and then trying to figure out puzzles necessary for you to open a new area in the game.

When it comes to combat, Silent Hill 3 is more difficult than its predecessors not just because you have more enemies and more new and weird ones to kill, but also because—especially during the first part in the mall—your ammo and health items are limited. Sometimes it's better to just try to outrun those weirdoes, but some of them will really get in your way.

My major gripe about this game, though, is still the one I have for its predecessors. The controls are still based on the point of view of the character, not on the character's position in relation to the screen. If Heather is facing down as you see her onscreen, normally you'd press the directional pad down to make her move further south, right? The problem with the Silent Hill series is that forward, left, right and down are relative to the character's position. So your right is Heather's left, and your up is Heather's down. This is truly, madly, deeply irritating when it comes to running around a corner away from mutated freaktoids which are chasing you.



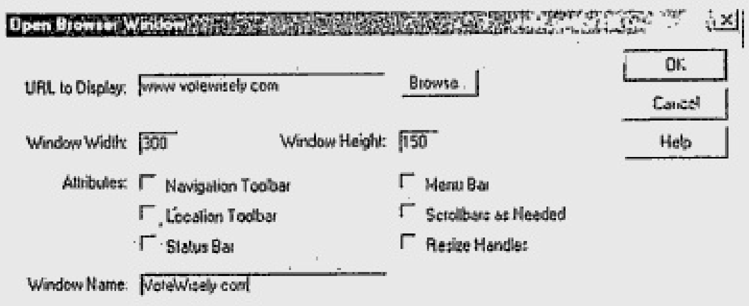


But what is an adventure or survival horror game without a good plot? Silent Hill 3's story is not as engaging as that of Silent Hill 2, which threw more surprises and twists at the player.

Still, if you're in it for the creep factor, this game doesn't disappoint. You won't cringe in fright by playing Silent Hill 3, but it's got spooky moments more than any other game out there.

Unsettling. Disturbing. Creepy.

Three words that would describe Silent Hill 3.



URL to Display: www.votewisely.com

Window Width: 300 Window Height: 150

Attributes: ☐ Navigation Toolbar ☐ Menu Bar
☐ Location Toolbar ☐ Scrollbars as Needed
☐ Status Bar ☐ Resize Handles

Window Name: VoteWisely.com

Controlling the size of a new window in Dreamweaver

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

IF you want a link within your webpage to be open in a new window and you want to control the size of that window, follow these simple steps:

1. Open Dreamweaver.
2. Select Window / Behaviors.
3. Select the link in your HTML document.
4. Click the "plus" (+) sign in your Behaviors dialog box and choose Open Browser Window
5. Enter the URL of the link and set the desired width and height of the new window.
6. You can even set the other attributes. Then click OK.

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GE AND POWEREDGE SIGN PACT

GE Digital Energy recently appointed PowerEdge Solutions (Phils.) Inc., as an authorized distributor of GE Digital Energy UPS and connectivity products and services in a ceremonial contract signing ceremony and press conference held at the Dusit Hotel in Makati. Present during the event are (seated from left to right) Lucien Magpantay, PowerEdge president and GM; Prasad James, GEDE Asia Pacific GM; and Tony Panganiban, GE Phils. country manager. Witnesses are PowerEdge board of directors (standing from left to right) Ruby Liza Klausner, VP for services; Oscar Cribe, sales manager; and Alice dela Cruz, VP for sales and marketing.

Alleged 'Blaster'. . .

From page B14

(which does not get displayed) directed toward Microsoft, Bill Gates and the anti-virus industry.

The Blaster worm had a number of "cousins," according to Sophos. The first involved a variation on the virus' file name. From msblast.exe, the virus author used penis32.exe as a file name to lure unsuspecting victims.

The first variant was detected on Aug. 13, 2003.

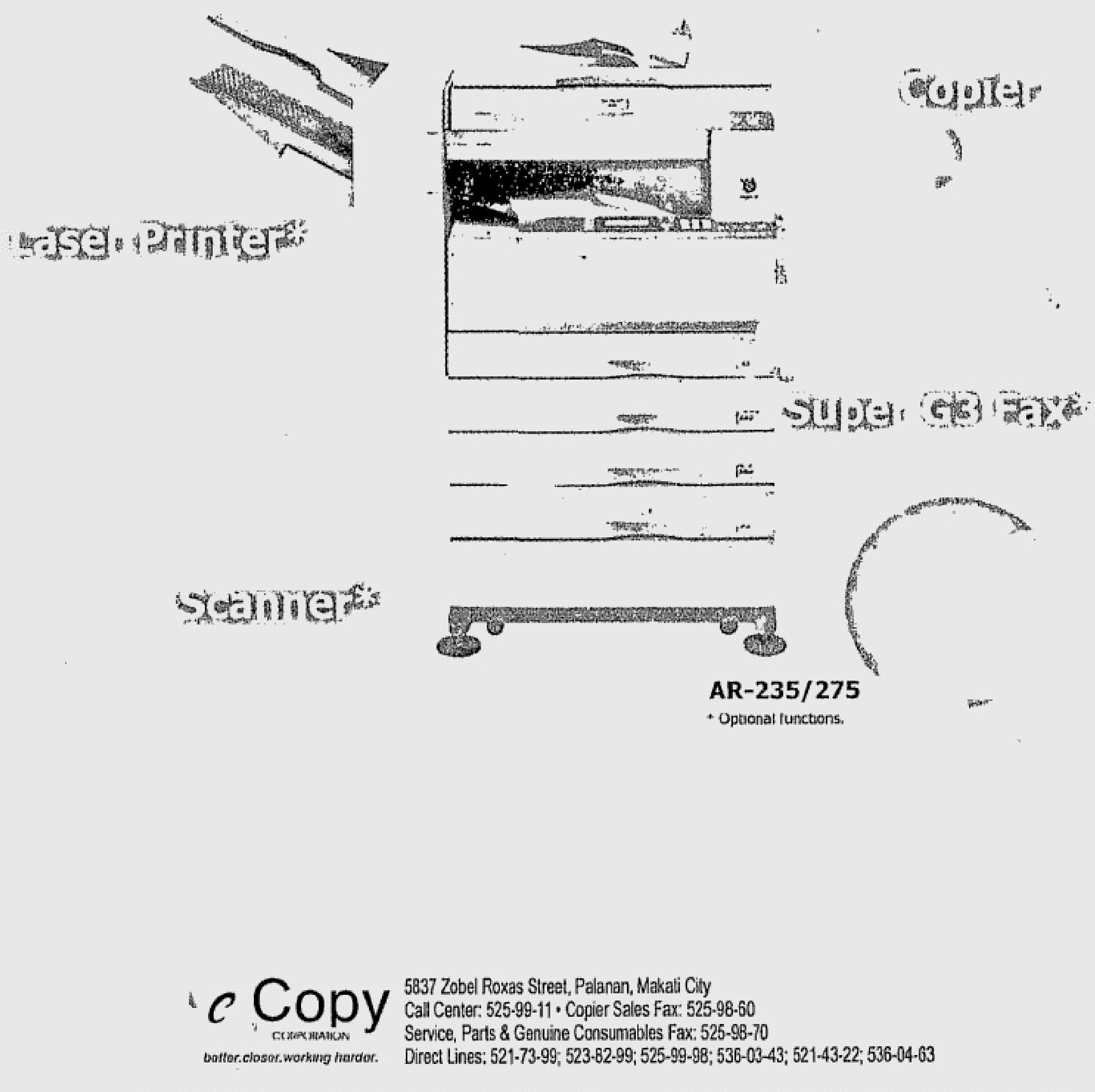
Industry reports indicate that Parson's variant has infected some 7,000 computers worldwide, while the original MS-Blaster variant infected over one million computers. The same reports indicated that Parson allegedly released his variant on August 15. By August 19, authorities were questioning him.

Parson faces a maximum penalty of $250,000 and 10 years in jail.

The Blaster virus exploits a system vulnerability in Windows that was first detected July this year, according to Sophos. Upon finding a vulnerable computer system, the worm copies itself into the machine and starts finding other vulnerable systems on the Internet.

From Aug. 16, 2003, one month after the security patch was posted, the worm was programmed to launch a distributed denial-of-service attack on windowsupdate.com, which may severely impact access to the website Microsoft uses to distribute security patches.

The worm also contains the following text, which does not get displayed: "I just want to say LOVE YOU SAN!! billy gates why do you make this possible ? Stop making money and fix your software!!"



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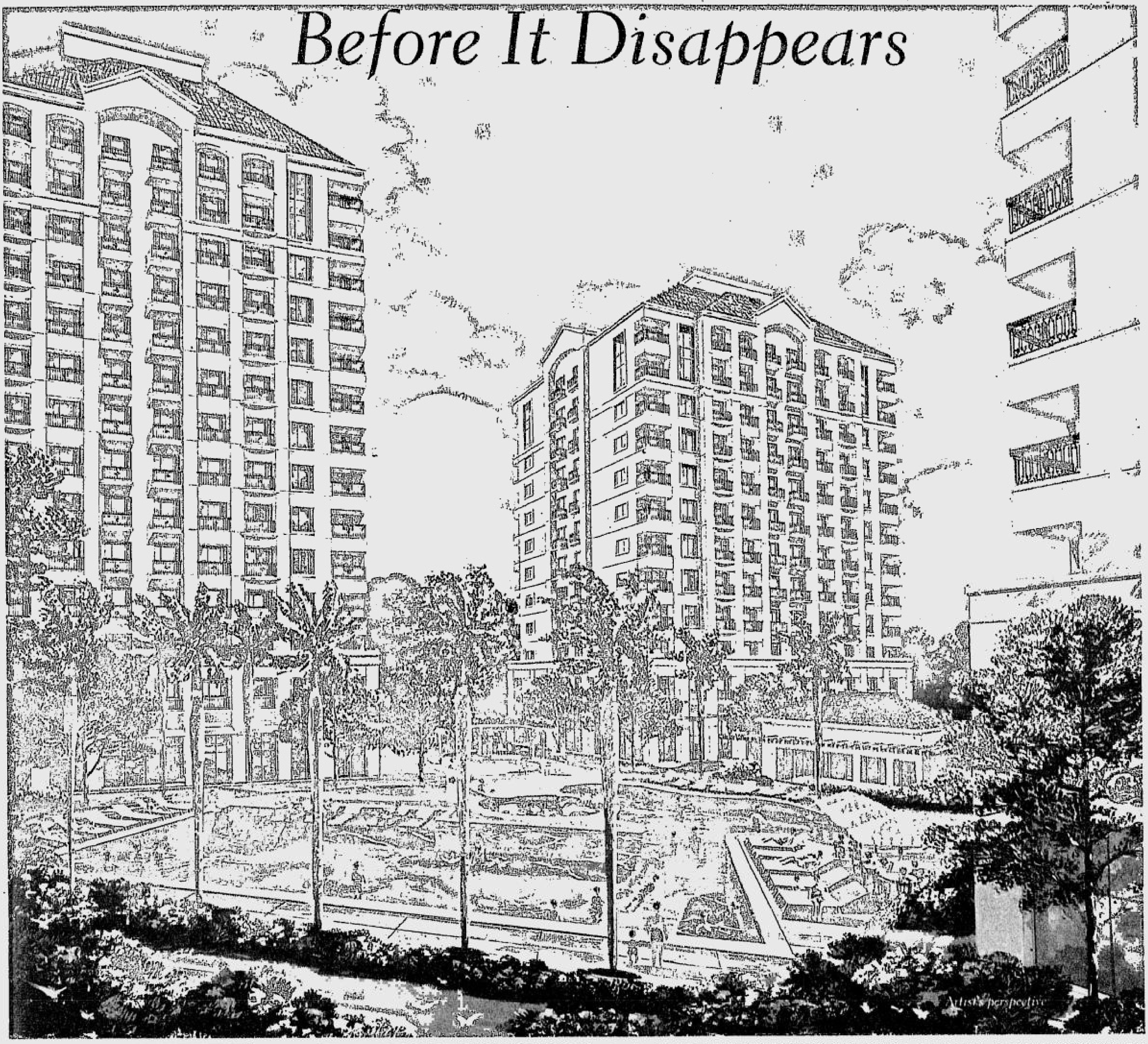
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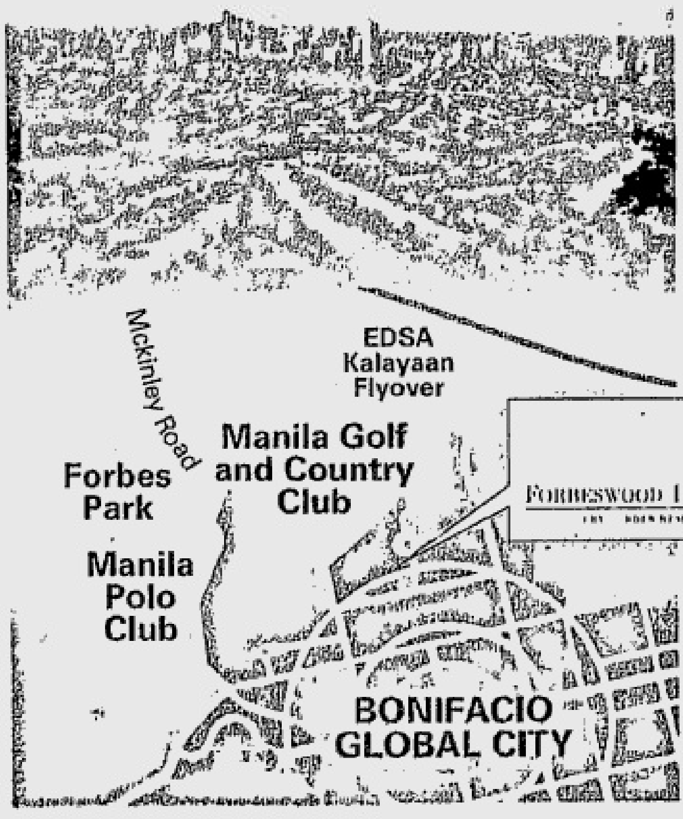
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CEOs must recognize successes beyond work

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

JOSE "Joey" A. Concepcion III talks of a man who worked hard all his life until he retired. He fulfilled a lifelong dream of buying a boat. The day the boat arrived, he suffered a heart attack and passed away.

And then there are his acquaintances who have broken marriages because their families rarely spent time together.

These have had such an impact on the 45-year-old that he vowed he would not commit the same mistake.

Stories have been repeated about businessmen and executives who devote most of their time to work, promising themselves that someday they will enjoy the fruits of their labor. But how many really get to reap the fruits?

The key is to live life while doing your work. To create a balance between career and family.

Such is the philosophy adopted by Concepcion who took over the reins of his family's conglomerate, RFM Corp., before he turned 30.

Four years ago, he changed his work schedule and started spending more time with his family .

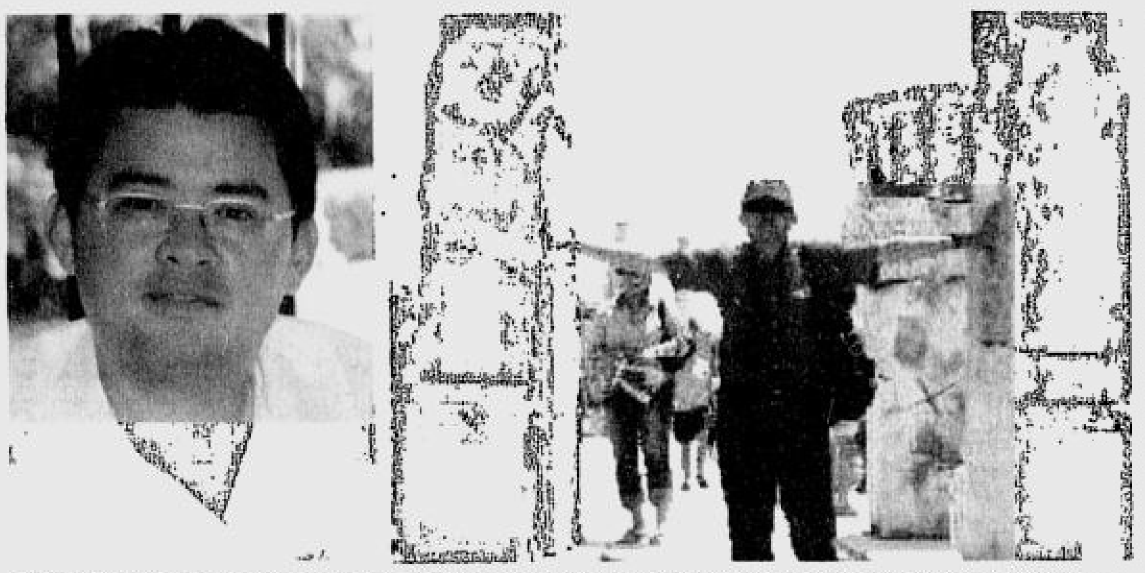
"As I look at my other friends who get hung up on their jobs, they tend to forget their families. They have commitments, sometimes they even play golf . What is all the wealth you create if you cannot use it? If you cannot spend time with your family?"

"When I started with RFM I helped build the company. I bought all those companies (Selecta, Cosmos, etc) I was burned out by all the activities—what then what now. The doctor said I was not fit. I went through weight reduction, tried to balance health and hope to see the business grow. It is important to have that balance. What is all the work for if you have no time for the family?"

Lifestyle change

So Concepcion changed his lifestyle.

Boosted by the realization that as CEO his job was to get out of the day to day operations and do the thinking and visioning, he stopped doing operational management and focused on the direction and strategies of the company.



REALIZING there are other aspects of his life other than work, Joey Concepcion cuts his time in the office and makes sure he and his people have time to spend with their families. PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

He created his workplace at home. Three times a week he stays home and holds meetings in his house.

The other days he goes to the office for one-on-one meetings.

Concepcion says he preaches the value of a balanced life to his employees by allowing them "to participate in our daily masses, providing a prayer room. And allowing or encouraging them to give time for their spiritual life. On a voluntary basis."

"We have no work on Saturdays to allow employees to be with their families. We have a sports center which allows employees to participate in basketball and other sports activities."

His house in Forbes Park has several living room sets where many meetings can go on at the same time.

Joey believes that thinking is done better outside the office. This is why he would hold brainstorming sessions out of town. "I used to stay the whole day in the office, but changing venues allows you to think better."

He cites, for example, the creation of the Selecta Moo Sweet Milk. It was an idea the RFM executives picked from Thailand which sells sweet soya milk.

The rationale for the sweet milk is that Filipinos often put sugar in their milk to drink. Selecta Moo sweet milk simplifies matters.

The product caught on so much that they cannot meet the demand in some areas.

Concepcion says he also tries to see for himself what the consumers want by visiting supermarkets.

RFM is already moving toward toll manufacturing and is focusing

CEOs/ B2-3

JOEY with his wife of 20 years, Marissa, taking a honeymoon in Turkey and Greece. The CEO believes executives should celebrate more than just work accomplishments.

RP LIFE AND POLITICS

Wise old man speaks

By Clarissa S. Batino

LIKE most businessmen, Washington SyCip is frustrated with how excessive politicking and grandstanding ruin everything for his adopted country. (SyCip is an American citizen.)

But unlike most, he has not lost hope and is always willing to take the step that would make a difference.

"We cannot just give up. It is too easy to do that. But you cannot change things overnight. We all have to try to make things better," says the man regarded as the father of accounting in the Philippines, having founded SGV & Co.

While on a break from a talk on good governance last Thursday, Sycip relaxed with some reporters and shared his insights on an array of issues he had encountered in his 82 years.

Quality of education

A product of the V. Mapa High School in Manila, SyCip or Wash to his friends, recalls his father insisted on putting his kids to public school and letting them commute. "He would not even let the driver bring us to school," he says.

"But I did not send my children to public school because I feared I would handicap them. During my time, I was not handicapped. I competed well with the guys who came from Ateneo and other private schools. But sadly, the quality of education in this country has deteriorated," he notes.

As a result, the poor lost their ticket to success.

"In the past, a poor family could go up in society with good education. But now, this doesn't happen anymore," Sycip laments.

To make matters worse, the poor has limited access to credit and is vulnerable to opportunist lenders like those who offer 5-6 (for every P5 lent, payment is P6).

Despite efforts at providing micro finance to the poor, the number of such lenders have gone up.

The problem, he says, is getting worse such that the Indian ambassador had expressed concern on the active participation of Indians in the crippling lending scheme.

SYCIP tells the rich: Leave nothing to your children except education.

Population stand

Sycip's dynamism belies his age. One would not expect that he would be critical of the government's deafening silence on population control.

"We do not have a credible population control program. This is where the Marcos administration made a dent. It was able to reduce population growth substantially," he recalls.

He links the reluctance of administrations after Marcos to pursue population control to the fear of the Catholic Church and the pervasive myth that the Church strongly influences voters.

This is perhaps why his choice as the next president is Sen. Juan Flavier.

"The person I like to win is one who would not be president and that is Senator Flavier. I like him because he knows the problem of the rural areas and went against the church in his population control program when he was health secretary," he says.

Sycip believes the peso and interest rates were sorely affected by the July 27 failed mutiny followed by the Court of Appeals' decision that suspended the central bank governor.

WISE/ B2-3

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Bankard empowers credit cardholders

CREDIT card pioneer Bankard Inc. has warned cardholders against schemes of certain credit card companies that charge hidden fees under the guise of low-interest rate promotional packages.

Bankard president and chief executive officer Joven D. Reyes challenged cardholders to be more mindful and knowledgeable of the "add-on" rates that certain companies charge them.

He said customers should know how to analyze their monthly statement of accounts and credit card bills so they will not be duped by the "seemingly low add-on rates" offered by credit companies.

"The test of finding out how much one's card is charging credit card holders lies in understanding the difference between nominal and effective interest rates that a credit card offers", Reyes said.

Reyes explains that understanding these two terms is the first step in recognizing the cause of the many "credit card bill nightmares that cardholders experience when paying their dues."

Nominal interest rate, also called the "add-on rate," is the rate applied on the original item price monthly to arrive at the monthly interest amount. The monthly interest amount is then multiplied by the term (i.e., the number of months the item is to be paid on installment to arrive at the total amount of interest for the whole term.) The nominal or add-on rate does not express the real interest rate charged to one's purchases, Reyes notes.

Effective interest rate, on the other hand, computes interest based on the diminishing balance of the item purchased, he explained. Thus, the effective interest rate reflects the "true" or "real" value rate charged to one's transaction.

"Knowing these kinds of information empowers credit card holders so that they could be relieved of the burden of paying hidden charges and high interest rates", Reyes pointed out.

Bankard's newest credit card product, myDream JCB is a no-frills, easy-to-pay credit card that offers the lowest effective revolving interest rate of 2.5 percent per month as against the 3.25 to 3.5 percent charged by other common cards. For installment purchases, myDream JCB's effective interest rates are as low as 1.5 percent per month for three months, 1.75 percent per month for six months and 2 percent per month for 12 months.

Straight-talking that it is, myDream JCB has no hidden costs and charges a cardholder a consistently low annual fee of P800, the lowest among international credit cards, Reyes said. The said rate is also offered on a long-term basis and not on a promo basis only.

Other value-added perks of myDream JCB include a balance conversion facility that allows cardholders to convert their retail purchases to installment just by calling the myDream JCB Hotline (888-1818); the flexible PEP minimum that lets one pay a monthly minimum of 5 percent of one's outstanding balance; international and local acceptability among merchant stores; wide payment network via all branches of RCBC, RCBC Savings Bank, Metrobank, Union Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, Banco de Oro, SM Bills Payment counters and major BancNet ATMs; and easy access to a 24/7 myDream JCB Customer Hotline at telephone number 888-1818.

INFORMATICS INKS NEW FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Informatics has recently inked a new franchise agreement with the former Mayor of Consolacion, Cebu Maximo Malagar. The newest Informatics branch brings international IT education and training closer to Eastern Cebuanos. Shown is Malagar (2nd from left) shaking hands with Leo Riingen, Informatics president and CEO. With them are Caroline Malagar and Joel Aguada, senior manager of the business development division of Informatics.

ANOTHER COKE WINNER

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc (CCBPI) area sales manager for North GMA Jun A. Bungcasan Jr shakes hands while turning over the symbolic key to Koshina Yoshinida Wescott-one of the winners of Coca-Cola's Hottah-Hottah promo, during a simple awarding ceremony at the company's Bagumbayan sales office. Wescott takes home a brand new signature Coca-Cola red Isuzu Hi-Lander XUVi. Previously, seven other luck Coca-Cola drinkers had won in this nationwide promo.

Ichizen's new food offers

ICHIZEN Japanese Food and Café', a well-known Japanese restaurant at the university area, is offering new tempting and delectable fares at still affordable prices.

The cozy café, which pioneered and popularized Japanese fast food among students and young adults in its branches at Legarda and P. Noval, found it appropriate to offer its patrons additional food lines to improve its existing ones, with the advent of the popularity of Sushi, Tempura, Teriyaki, Donburi and other Japanese favorites in the said locality.

Ma. Esther Zapata, chief operating officer of Blessings Food Corp, which owns and manages Ichizen, said these product lines were carefully planned to provide just the right blend of popular Japanese dishes, not just for these students, but likewise for the young adults and other regular diners, who form part of the ever-growing Japanese food market.

"We did away with providing a long list of Japanese food in our menu and instead focused on a short but highly specialized product line that Ichizen has been known for," she enthused.

Among the diners' instant favorites are the Chicken Teppanyaki, Beef Teriyaki, Donburi Toppings and Ebi Tempura which are not only exquisite in flavor, but are truly affordable and easy on the pocket. Food prices start at P40 for a complete meal, while the rest range from P50 to P70. Its new Bento and Combo meals, which start at P85, guarantee patrons more savings.

Ichizen also serves the delectable Sukiyaki soup in just the right blend, which can be eaten alone as a snack or as a complimentary dish to rice meals, at only P70 per serving. And there are the tasty chicken wings Tori Nan Ban Suki, enjoyed either as an afternoon snack, or again as a siding to rice meals, only at P55.

Try the Pork Teriyakidon, a tasty bowlful of specially made Ichizen rice, topped with tender slices of pork with teriyaki sauce, with a siding of sauteed fresh beansprouts and sprinkled with hurikake and sesame seeds, an absolute treat for only P50. Other Donburi treats are Chicken Teriyakidon, P50; Katsudon, P55; and Tendon, P70.

Ichizen Japanese Food and Café also offers on- and off-site catering services and party packages. Call 309-4080 or 309-4276.

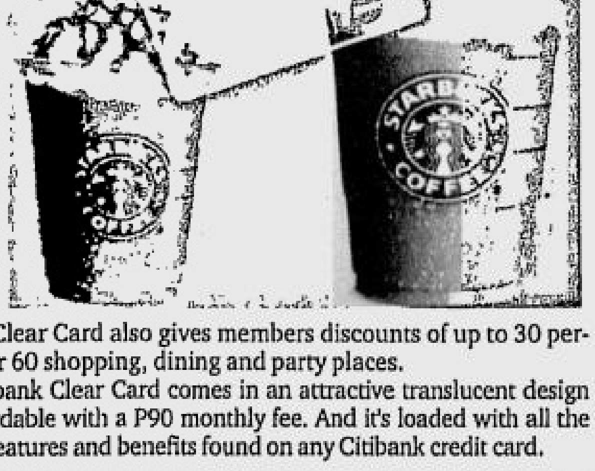
KAANAK OATH-TAKING AT MALACAÑANG

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently led the oath-taking of the officers and members of Kaanak 1896 Inc, an association of the descendants of heroes of the Philippines Revolution, at the Ceremonial Hall at Malacanang Palace. The President is shown inducting Kaañak 1896 president Edgar Aglipay (center) together with the other officers and members (from left) Vicente S. Enriquez, Alex Loinaz, Manny Encarnacion, Ignacio M. Enriquez, Elsa Mapua, Paulo Azurin, Amy Yulo (partly hidden), Nenita Distrito, Eugenio Roy Daza, lawyers Vivencio Abano and Cita Garcia, former Representative Sandy Ocampo, immediate past president of Kaanak 1896, Councilor Edgardo Ocampo, Elinor Virata, Priscilla Gonzalez-Avenir, architect Arturo Valenzuela, Tina Testa, lawyer Gregorio Bonifacio and Dr. Quintin Doromal.

ProductFILES

Upsized Starbucks with Citibank Clear Card

FLASH your Citibank Clear Card at all Starbucks outlets nationwide and enjoy a free upsize on your favorite Starbucks beverage. Ongoing until Oct. 1, order your choice Starbucks drink and get a complimentary upsize when you pay with your Citibank Clear Card. Pay for a short, and get a tall, or purchase a tall and walk away with a grande, or order a grande and enjoy a venti.



This premium treat is valid for both hot and cold Starbucks drinks.

Aside from more coffee enjoyment, the Clear Card also gives members discounts of up to 30 percent in over 60 shopping, dining and party places.

The Citibank Clear Card comes in an attractive translucent design and is affordable with a P90 monthly fee. And it's loaded with all the advanced features and benefits found on any Citibank credit card.

Best mouthwash brand according to consumers

MILLIONS of consumers have spoken. Astring-O-Sol, according to them, is the best mouthwash brand. Proof of the brand's superiority is the string of consumer awards that it has received over a period of two years.

The most recent award the brand received was the Best Mouthwash Brand award from the Asian-Pacific Awards Council and the National Consumer Affairs Foundation (NCAF) in March at the World Trade Center. The honor came on the heels of another award from Who's Who in the Philippines Awards Foundation and National Consumers Affairs Foundation. The 2002 Who's Who in the Philippines National Consumers Excellence Awards conferred its Best Mouthwash Brand trophy to Astring-O-Sol during the Annual People's Choice Awards for the brand's contribution to the general well being of the Filipino consumers. Astring-O-Sol was chosen based on its contribution to public service, product quality, actual demonstration, and general public opinion based on consumer satisfaction.

In 2002, the Organization for Peace and Progressive Oriented Inc, through the Dangal ng Pilipinas Annual Awards and Consumers' Choice Awards, named Astring-O-Sol the Most Outstanding Mouthwash brand as chosen by consumers. The annual awards is a special tribute to outstanding consumer products, services, business entities, and manufacturers. Astring-O-Sol bested another leading mouthwash brand in product quality and consumer satisfaction. Prior to this award, Astring-O-Sol had already been recognized as the Best Mouthwash Brand in the 2002 Parangal ng Bayan Awards.

The awards prove only one thing. Astring-O-Sol has consistently delivered its promise of giving consumers the confidence of long-lasting fresh breath because of its effective germ-killing action. Astring-O-Sol is available in concentrated variants, so just a few drops in water is enough to give you long-lasting fresh breath. Also available are Ready-to-use Astring-O-Sol Ice with CPC for 12-hour germ-killing protection and new Astring-O-Sol Specialist for instant and long-lasting protection against throat and mouth infections.

Bits Clips

Pond's Institute still on tour

IN LINE with its efforts to educate the Filipina on proper facial skin care, Pond's Institute recently launched the Pond's Face Factor Beauty Challenge with a special gathering of beauty experts and celebrities at Robinsons Place Ermita. The Challenge aims to make the Filipina understand that the face deserves more than what ordinary hard soaps can provide. It was a spa-concept setup that toured different malls and schools nationwide. Highlighting the Challenge was the "beauty spa"-a deep cleansing, relaxing experience with the Pond's Antibacterial Facial Scrub, which has gentle micro scrubs that clean deep down to the pores, and Bactistat that fights against pimple-causing bacteria while leaving skin moisturized and clean. The last leg of the Pond's Face Factor Beauty Challenge will be at St. Scholastica's College today, Sept. 8.

Youth holds tomorrow's promise

AMIDST the seemingly bleak future besetting the young generation, His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin firmly believes that the "young people still continue to carry with them the bright promise of tomorrow". He adds, however, "With so many vices and evil influences around, we need to present to the youth a counter-culture: adapted to the signs of the times, yet rooted in Jesus Christ." Thus, the Campus Ministry of the Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Archdiocese of Manila, in celebration of its 25th anniversary, is staging "Band-ing Sa Riverbanks," a coming together of youth bands for a night of inspirational faith music for peace. This is a free marathon concert slated on Sept. 13 at the Amphitheater, Riverbanks Center, Marikina City. The concert showcases 12 of the most genre-diverse, original, and memorable entries chosen from among thousands.

Annual retreat for widows

THE ANNUAL retreat for widows sponsored by Pieta, a spiritual organization of widows, will be held at the OMI Retreat House (Oblates Missionary Center), Mangga Street, Mapayapa Village, Capitol Site, Quezon City from Sept. 12 to 14. Fr. Yulito Ignacio of San Carlos Seminary will be the retreat master. Fr. DP (Delfin Paulino) Felipe, Pieta spiritual director, will also attend. For particulars, call Crescing de Jesus at 531-7267, Aleli Ambrosio at 638-8400, Gloria de Claro at 532-7961, Ellen Pampolina at 524-4310, Rose Cruz at 922-0428, or Estela Cordenia at (043)404-0433.

CEOs must recognize successes beyond work

From page B2-1

on building its brands. The production of juices is already contracted, as so with the hotdogs and the canned goods. Part of the distribution is also contracted out except for the big supermarkets.

As for time with his family, Concepcion makes it a point to bring his four children out of town instead of letting them hang out in the malls during weekends. Once a year, he takes his whole family on a vacation abroad. He and his family take boat trips around the country.

He admits that it is harder now to teach children about the value of money. "When we were growing up, we were not spoiled. In our case now we are doing our best not to spoil them. We try to explain certain values. I believe that excess is giving even if there is no need. My kids now have to draw from their allowance the cost of their cell cards. And they all have pre-paid."

THE COUPLE tries to keep their kids away from the malls during weekends. PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Recently he went on a honeymoon with his wife of 20 years, the former Marissa Orosa.

They went on a cruise that brought them to Turkey, Istanbul. He says 95 percent of the staff were Filipinos and they were the ones who made the trip enjoyable because they were treated so warmly.

"In the corporate world we always try to outdo each other. We reward ourselves with more work. Enough never seems to be enough. I look at reaching 20 years with the same person as an accomplishment as good as successfully launching or developing a new product. I guess CEOs should take time to recognize their accomplishments in areas other than work and reward themselves for it.

"We decided on a cruise which was different. It took us to places we hadve never seen."

THE CEO tries to cascade a balanced work life to his people.

Concepcion adds "a lot of executives talk about a balanced life but with life's problems and the quest to be the best all the time, we forgot to practice this and as a result we see a lot of people including CEOs who have been so successful in their professional life but fail in the other areas—health, developing a relationship with God, family ..."

Wall Street research faces uncertain times

NEW YORK—At some of Wall Street's most prestigious firms, the once unthinkable has been occurring in stock research departments.

Goldman Sachs Group has not covered investment banks, brokerages or fund management companies for more than six months, since laying off analyst Richard Strauss.

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. has not covered large banks like Citigroup Inc., the country's No. 1 financial services company, and Bank of America Corp., the No. 3 bank, since last year.

Citigroup's Smith Barney unit fired several top analysts in May, deciding it could afford to temporarily drop coverage of mining, utilities, airlines and six other industry groups.

The decision to reduce coverage of large and traditional businesses marks a contrast with earlier cutbacks by Wall Street investment banks. After the bursting of the late 1990s stock market bubble, the firms broadly cut the companies that made up the bubble.

These days research executives are more focused on a the more permanent trends of declining trading commissions and tighter market regulations than on the ups and downs of the stock market. Commissions, which help fund the cost of research, have plummeted because of a rapid shift to automated trading systems and tighter buy-and-sell spreads.

"There's a lot of experimenting going on," said Michael Haney, an analyst at Boston-based financial services consultant Celent Communications. "You might see major blue-chip firms dropped, something that at one time may have been unthinkable." *Reuters*

Rethinking strategy

From page B2-4

tive? The problem is that we seldom know well beforehand what to "proact" to. To be sure, managers must attempt to anticipate long-run and general trends in business conditions and technological and market developments, just as weathermen "predict" climatic shifts and general trends in the weather. But most businesses find themselves negotiating in maelstroms, where decisive moves and quick actions are the key to survival.

Relevant strategy issues

In rethinking strategy, there are a number of other relevant issues that must be addressed by today's managers.

The importance of intangible assets. One distinguishing characteristic of the New Economy is the growing importance of intangible assets as a source of value. These fall broadly into two categories: human capital such as the knowledge, skills, and positive values of organizational members, and institutional capital which reflects the strength of the organization's culture, architecture and network linkages.

These assets have no market value and are not reflected in the firm's balance sheet. It is therefore not surprising that managers pay little attention to these sources of economic value. This neglect severely compromises the firm's viability and long-term profitability.

Misplaced focus on shareholder value. By and large, corporate missions and goals are focused on creating shareholder value. There is nothing inherently wrong with this as the profit motive is the raison d'etre of business. This is what makes Warren Buffet the icon that he is. However, a strictly bottom-line, short term focus is self-defeating insofar as maximizing shareholder value over the long haul is concerned. With such a short-sighted perspective, value creation becomes a zero-sum game: giving more value to customers or to workers means less profits. A more enlightened stakeholder focus is unquestionably a more effective way of maximizing shareholder value because it enhances the long-run value-creating capability of the enterprise. Simply put, a bigger pie next year means a larger slice for everyone—shareholders included!

(The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and professor at the Baguio Colleges Foundation. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Wise ...

From page B2-1

It had made it more difficult to invite foreign investors when neighboring countries like Malaysia, Thailand and China do not have these problems, he notes.

"I would say the administration is handicapped by the political process. A lot of her (President Macapagal-Arroyo) appointments are political in nature when she should be allowing technocrats to run the government," says the accounting expert.

Sycip says he met all the presidents of the Philippines except for Emilio Aguinaldo. He laments that unlike in the past, politicians who fiercely battled during elections would make up readily afterwards.

"It is unfortunate that Marcos sent his political opponents to jail. Before that, when politicians fight during elections, they make up afterwards," he recalls.

He likens the Philippine politics to a "telenovela" as twists unfold everyday. And the problem with "an interesting democracy" is that it clips the country's economic potentials.

"The ideal democracy is the one that would bring the bottom up. If you are no longer hungry, then democracy becomes more meaningful," adds Sycip.

To do his share, Sycip says he had set up a foundation to give back to the Filipino people some of the wealth he had earned in this country.

"I would leave my children with nothing except for a good education. I am trying to convince other wealthy families to do the same," says the wise, old man.

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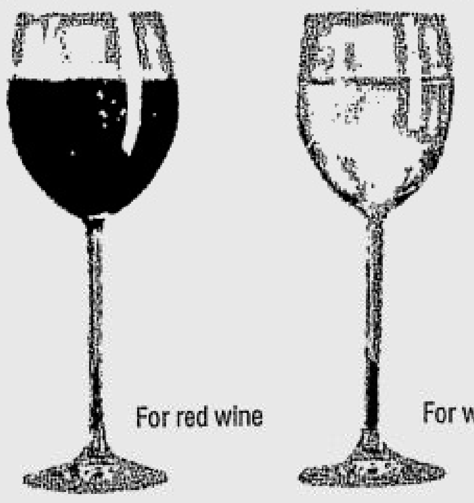

For red wine

For white wine

Is there a difference between a red wine glass and a white wine glass?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q. MY COMPANY is sending me to Australia for two weeks for training. I have never travelled outside the Philippines before with the exception of Hong Kong. What steps can I take to ensure that I do not embarrass myself once I am there as I am so unfamiliar with their culture or customs.

A. First of all congratulations for taking the initiative to prepare yourself. No matter what position you hold in a company, when sent abroad for a business trip, one ought to take steps to familiarize himself with the local customs and practices.

You will find that in Australia, although they speak English, some words will be different and you may find them difficult to understand in the beginning as the accent is very different from Filipino English or American English.

Generally, Australians tend to be less formal than their European counterparts, but of course there are always exceptions to the rule. You may have difficulty finding books on Australian business etiquette in local bookstores, but there is a wealth of information on the Internet. If you work for a multinational and you are going there to train with the Australian counterpart of your company, then adjustment to corporate culture will be easy as it will be very similar to the corporate culture in your own office. Familiarize yourself with local cuisine and try their local gastronomy when there, particularly when business associates take you out for lunch or dinner. You will find that it also makes good conversation for topics outside office matters. Familiarize yourself with the economy and government as well so that you can give substantial input during meetings. Again, all this information is available on the Internet. Good luck and enjoy the experience and the sites once there.

Q. Is there a difference between a red wine glass and a white wine glass?

A. This is going to be a long answer to a very short question.

Yes, there is a difference between a red wine glass and a white wine glass. As a matter of fact, there are different glasses for different kinds of red wines and white wines. For instance there is a glass that is used specifically for Bordeaux wines and a glass used for Sauterness wine. However, this is used mainly by wine aficionados or fine dining restaurants.

If you are asking the question because you would like to purchase wine glasses for your use at home, then you only need two types of glasses. The traditional red wine glass will have a mouth or opening that is wide and the shape of the glass will be more rounded. This is shaped this way so that the wine can breathe. Whereas the white wine glass is more elongated and has a smaller mouth or opening. The reason for this is that since white wine is suppose to be served chilled, the mouth of the glass is smaller so as to keep the wine cooler longer.

All wine glasses and champagne glasses are held on the stem. Again, the reason for this is so that the warmth of your hand does not warm the wine too soon. Bear in mind however that for home use, you can interchange the glasses.

Send feedback and questions to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com.

Rethinking strategy

MAPping THE FUTURE

Niceto S. Poblador

STRATEGIC planning has long been the cornerstone of successful business enterprises. It has been generally accepted that a well-planned action program that leverages a firm's distinctive competencies in the face of strong competition is essential for survival and profitability.

Not anymore!

Strategy as we know it is concerned with marshalling the firm's core competencies and using these to achieve long-run corporate objectives. The exercise requires a great deal of environmental scanning to detect market opportunities and possible danger signs. This activity also requires careful evaluation of enterprise resources and to come up with action programs designed to enhance existing capabilities and to correct shortfalls and deficiencies.

Elaborate planning, forecasting and analytical techniques have been developed through the years for this purpose.

A critical assumption in the strategic planning exercise is that the relevant technical, market and economic parameters are predictable with reasonable certainty.

While this assumption may be valid until the early '90s, this is no longer the case. The joint impact of the information revolution and globalization has made the business environment much more complex and more dynamic than it has ever been in the past. Under these chaotic and unpredictable circumstances, strategy as we knew it is no longer relevant.

Lessons from the Iraq War

The recently concluded war in Iraq has amply demonstrated that even the most carefully laid out strategic plans will come to naught under conditions of extreme uncertainty.

Months before the start of the conflict, US military strategists have carefully assembled data about the enemy using the most sophisticated technology. Alternative strategic moves were carefully evaluated and the final battle plans were put in place based on the most recently available information about enemy strengths, position, and probable moves. When the strategy was finally implemented, the anticipated moves of the Iraqi forces did not materialize and the enemy was not encountered where expected. Indeed, the enemy seems to have vanished into thin air!

The battlefield situation turned out to be as shifting as the desert sand, and the well-equipped and well-instructed invading forces had to resort to impromptu tactics to contain the rapidly unfolding situation.

While the war was eventually "won," by the coalition forces, it was at best a Pyrrhic victory.

Doing business in the New Economy has become equally parlous. Consumer preferences, market structures, production technologies, and regulatory constraints are changing by the day. Firms doing business globally - and there are few that are not - are doubly imperiled because they operate in multiple environments.

Under these unstable, ambiguous, and risky circumstances, the single-minded pursuit of well-planned and elegantly articulated corporate strategies is bound to backfire.

Flexibility is best strategy

It would seem clear therefore that to succeed in today's business world, managers must abandon their traditional reliance on sophisticated and complicated strategic plans. In order to compete effectively and to survive, businesses must instead depend on maximum flexibility. This is achieved by designing the management system for quick response to developments as they occur. The firm's architecture and its collective managerial mindset must be geared toward maximum adaptability to a continuously unfolding situation.

But aren't managers supposed to be proactive rather than reac-

RETHINKING/ B2-3

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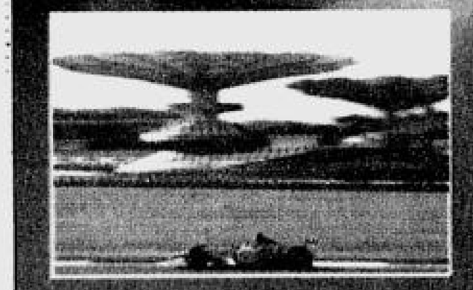

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5. You can drop your entries in promotion drop boxes located at participating convenience store chains, gasoline convenience stores and major supermarket chains in Manila and Cebu. You can also send your entries to the following offices:
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b. Dentsu Philippines Inc. located at 33F TOWER ONE, THE ENTERPRISE CENTER, 6766 AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY, 1200 PHILIPPINES
For CEBU:
c. JT International (Philippines) Inc. Cebu Office located at DOOR 2 WINNER BLDG., AC CORTES, MANDAUE CITY 6014 PHILIPPINES;
6. All entries must be received not later than 12 midnight of October 30. JT International (Philippines), Inc. and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated and / or late entries.
7. Preliminary draw will be on August 2, 2003 for Manila and August 9 for Cebu in the presence of a BFAD representative. Last day of submission of entries for the preliminary draw is 12 midnight of July 18, 2003. Grand draw for Manila is on November 15, 2003 (during the Mild Seven F1 SLIPSTREAM event) and November 22 for Cebu.

Preliminary Draw (Aug 2 and 9)

Items	Manila	Cebu	Total
Mountain Bike	7	3	10
Sport Blouson/Jacket	35	15	50
Polo Shirt	35	15	50
Back Pack	70	30	100
Umbrella	105	45	150
Cap	140	60	200

Grand Draw (Nov 15 and 22)

Items	Manila	Cebu	Total
Trip to watch 2004 Malaysian GP	6	2	8
Mountain Bike	7	3	10
Sport Blouson/Jacket	35	15	50
Polo Shirt	140	60	200
Back Pack	140	60	200
Umbrella	175	75	250
Cap	210	90	300

8. All non-winning entries from the Preliminary Draw still qualify for the Grand Draw.
9. All participants of the promo must be present during the Preliminary and Grand Draw to be eligible to receive their prize.
10. Only the withholding taxes on the promotion prizes above P10,000 will be shouldered by JT International (Philippines) Inc. All other taxes that may arise as well as all travel documents shall be the responsibility of the winner.
11. Prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.
12. The names of the winners for both the Preliminary and Grand Draws shall be published in two of the leading newspapers. Winners will be notified through telegram as to where and when they can claim their prize.
13. Prizes will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the publication of the winners or the notification of the winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of BFAD.
14. In claiming a prize, the winner must present the notification telegram and two (2) original and valid identification documents (driver's license, passport, NBI clearance, birth certificate).
15. In case the winner fails to present the original and valid identification documents, the winner should present the following:
a. A sworn affidavit executed by at least two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity;
b. Certification from the responsible Municipality/City Official verifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city.
16. In case the winner, for justifiable reasons, cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy on his/her behalf. The proxy should present a letter of authorization duly signed for by the winner. This should be submitted with the notification telegram sent by JT International (Philippines), Inc. and two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner. The proxy should also bring two (2) original and valid documents to prove his/her identity.
17. Per draw (Preliminary and Grand), a participant can only win once. If a name is selected more than twice in the same draw, the winner will receive the prize of a higher value and another name will be drawn.
18. All decisions of JT International (Philippines) Inc., and its agencies are final and no objections will be entertained.
19. Employees of JT International (Philippines) Inc., their affiliates, distributors, suppliers, advertising and promotional agencies and DOH-BFAD as well as their relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity are not eligible to participate in the promotion.

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F4
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STORY ON PAGE C2

GMA 7 withdraws KBP membership over 'thrusts, actions'

By Marinel R. Cruz

GMA 7 has withdrawn its membership from the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) because it is dissatisfied with the broadcast organization's "present thrusts and actions."

As a result of the network's withdrawal, Antonio Veloso, the GMA 7 administrative division vice president, also resigned as KBP president.

Pinky Aseron of Raven Broadcasting Corp. replaced Veloso as KBP president.

Aseron said GMA 7's withdrawal concerns "pending cases" that the KBP filed against GMA 7 for violation of certain provisions of the KBP TV code.

GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon on Monday sent a letter to KBP chair Cerge Remonde informing him of the network's pullout "effective upon your receipt of this letter."

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of the withdrawal letter on Wednesday.

Inquirer Entertainment tried to reach Gozon through GMA 7 corporate communications officer-in-charge Butch Raquel, but the latter said Gozon would not comment due to a "gentleman's agreement" the network president had made with Remonde.

Aseron said the KBP has not yet accepted the network's withdrawal of membership.

"We haven't really taken action on this yet," she said. "One can't just quit without satisfying its liabilities as member of the KBP. We will still consult the KBP's by-laws regarding this matter."

In 2000, the KBP Standard Authority fined actress and TV host Rosanna Roces P10,000 for using "obscene" dialogues and actions on her GMA show biz talk show "Star Talk" during an interview with guest actor Paolo Fabregas. The interview was aired on Oct. 9, 1999.

The Standards Authority (SA) is the enforcement arm of the KBP.

The KBP SA in March 2000 also suspended GMA 7's membership privileges for 12 months for failing to establish a "rigid fail-safe mechanism in the editing of taped materials scheduled for broadcast within its live programs."

GMA 7 filed a motion for reconsideration on June 27, 2001 and sought the cancellation of the suspension of its membership privileges. The KBP denied the motion.

"GMA 7 also raised as the cause of its withdrawal the commercial overloading case that the KBP Standard Authority filed against the network," said Aseron.

She said that according to the "overloading provision of the KBP TV Code, a network is allowed only 18 minutes of advertising airtime per hour. A broadcasting company found violating this provision would be fined "the equivalent amount of the commercial in excess plus 20 percent of the total amount of the overload," said Aseron, citing the code.

She said a KBP monitoring team detected GMA 7's violation last June 2 and sent the network a "show-cause order."

Aseron said the last reported violation of the provision was by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and was detected last May 27.

Ja-Ja and Boom-Boom: Twin picks /C3

GONZALES

Ana Margarita Gonzales: Fine Things from a fine woman /C8

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F4 craze reaches fever pitch

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE F4 craze has reached fever pitch with the announcement that two of the guys and their collective lady love are coming to town to perform in a big concert.

Ticket prices are dauntingly steep because the F4 and "Meteor Garden" talents have asked for—and gotten—inordinately steep talent fees from their concert's local impresarios.

Instructively, however, some F4 fans haven't balked at the steep prices and have been pleading with their folks to get them tickets as their "accumulated birthday and Christmas presents for years to come." Such determined fanaticism!

The F4's hyper-popularity recently spawned a "look-alike lip-synching contest" on TV, and the studio audience went wild as it watched the finalist quartets pretending to be groovy singers from Taiwan.

The weird thing was, the audience shrieked and carried on like a house on fire even if the finalists were "singing" in Chinese. Even weirder, some people in the audience were singing along with them, also in Chinese.

More recently, English and Filipino translations of the F4's signature songs have been made, so the situation has become less peculiar. But the F4's unprecedented hold on the local audience is still controversial and cautionary.

Some people admit that this is a form of colonial mentality, but say that it's not so bad because local youths are going crazy, not over Caucasians, but over Asians—for a change.

And yet, local singers have still been left out in the cold, as young Filipinos ape the F4's get-ups and mannerisms.

Who's to "blame" for this? Our fractured culture, which prompts us to favor imported products over the homegrown variety. More specifically in this instance, the F4's popularity can be "blamed" on the big buildup that they and their drama series have been given on television.

Without that buildup, they wouldn't have become the rage they are now. Therefore, more than anything else, what this confirms for us is TV's immense power to establish trends, and to subliminally prompt local viewers to support TV channel's star building and therefore moneymaking initiatives.

Why can't they do the same for local entertainers? Because they know that imported stuff has a special place in Filipino viewers' hearts, so they're easier to push.

Such cynicism would be shocking if it weren't so pervasive. To protect themselves from being further manipulated in this wise, viewers should make themselves more aware of TV's immense power to tell people what they should want, so they can more readily counteract it.

TAIWAN PHENOMENON. Young Pinoys go ga-ga over the F4, leaving local stars out in the cold.

Hollywood exposed

The Discovery Channel is generally associated with adventure, historical and geographical documentaries, so it's a pleasant surprise to be informed that it's going to telecast an investigative series about the American film industry and its inner workings.

The special week-long programming event, "Hollywood!" unreels from tonight, Sept. 8, to Friday, Sept. 12, at 10 p.m.

The limited documentary series leads off on Monday with "Hollywood Inc.: Shut It Down!" The premiere program informs us that, once a movie starts filming, money is spent at a rate of up to $500,000 a day.

Personal stories told by major Hollywood players show how star tantrums, location conflicts and production nightmares can wreck schedules, cost millions of dollars, and eat away at the thing that matters most in Tinseltown—box-office profit.

Viewers will find out why studio chief **Bill Mechanic** wanted to shut "Titanic" down, and learn what was behind the tension between actor **Russel Crowe**, director **Ridley Scott** and writer **Bill Nicholson** on the set of "Gladiator." Instructive industry gossip, straight from the horses' mouths!

On Sept. 9, "Lightning in a Bottle" focuses on financing problems. Hollywood's successful players reveal how difficult it is to get a $100-million movie financed.

Viewers discover how a couple of youths initiated the highly successful animated feature "Shrek," and why making the controversial film, "Fight Club," got studio chief Bill Mechanic fired. And, why did **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** "End of Days" end up as such a huge, expensive flop?

Wednesday, Sept. 10, zeroes in on a film's all-important opening weekend with "Battle of the Blockbuster." Viewers learn that careers can be lost or made in just two days.

The program follows testing, marketing and star-studded premieres in one summer to see which film will become the biggest blockbusters—and why.

Thursday, Sept. 11, focuses on Hollywood's sexy stars—**Marilyn Monroe, Jayne Mansfield**, etc. This episode, titled "Pin-ups," reveals that sexy stars were created for soldiers, to remind them of what they were fighting for.

Times have changed quite radically, but the pin-ups remain—on Sports Illustrated's special swimsuit issue, on the Internet, etc. Cybermodel **Cindy Margolis'** "girl-next-door" image has been downloaded by more than 60 million people worldwide!

Finally, on Friday, Sept. 12, "Hollywood Knives" reveals the major role that celebrity plastic surgeons play in creating stars with pluperfect beauty. Those responsible for the makeovers of some of the biggest names in show business recall how even the biggest screen luminaries resorted to scalpel on the way up, or on the way down.

'Kuya' Robert, a man for the children

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

SHOW TIME

ROBERT Alejandro is Peter Pan personified.

He's turning 40 this year, but his youthful looks and exuberance defy how people his age are usually perceived. Alejandro, a reporter on "The Probe Team," also hosts GMA 7's weekly 30-minute educational show, "Art is-Kool," launched last February.

"Art is-Kool" has made a new household name of "Kuya Robert," whose love for art and teaching makes him a comfortable character to talk to. Whatever child-like enthusiasm you see on TV is pretty much what you get in person. He doesn't really have a specific art hero, saying he's always been inspired to pursue his interests his own way.

"Actually, my influence is my childhood," says Robert. "A lot of things I do there (on 'Art is-Kool') were the things I did when I was a kid. I'm turning forty. *Sabi ko nga, ako na ba ang* Uncle Bob (of the defunct kiddie show 'Lucky Seven Club')?"

Robert was an ad agency art director for four years. "My peers at McCann Erickson would tell their nieces and nephews, '*Kaibigan ko si Kuya* Robert.' And then the niece or nephew would say, 'No, that's not possible. You're old!'"

The freelance artist had an integral hand in the family business, the Papemelroti chain of stores, which features many of his distinct illustrations on paper products like stationeries, greeting cards and decorations.

"I don't draw animé or superheroes," he explains. "My family never told me what to do. When we started (the chain), I was still a student." The artistic environment at home was very encouraging when he was growing up, adds the artist who took up Fine Arts-VisCom in the University of the Philippines.

On "The Probe Team," he is the wandering artist, occasionally doing impromptu ink drawings outdoors. His style is unique, cartoony and marked by multiple candy hues, reflecting his upbeat demeanor. Through "Art is-Kool," he promotes the use of easily available and recyclable materials, and hopes to teach especially those who have no chance of stepping into a museum.

"It's an opportunity to share with those types of children," he explains. "*Sobra akong natutuwa na* it's educational and it's popular. Normally, they don't go together."

He points to a bulletin board full of children's letters and artworks. A week or two after he teaches a lesson on "Art is-Kool," children start sending him their works.

Probe Productions' Che-che Lazaro, Alejandro's co-worker and friend, fondly tells a story about a certain segment that involves food, a lesson in putting a design made of butter on a piece of bread, and then toasting the bread. "*Sabi nga ng* cameraman *namin nung nakita niya 'yung* episode, *'Naku, magugulo na naman 'yung kusina namin nito!' Kasi, 'yung mga anak niya gustong gawin 'yung nakita nila sa* show."

In 'The Probe Team,' Robert is paid '1/100th of his true worth,' says Che-Che Lazaro

Robert receives a lot of other welcome feedback, some of it funny. He relates, "I made a puppet out of a soap box, and then I got a text message saying, 'Nice project. I now have a closet full of soap without boxes.'"

Designing for malls has also been keeping him busy, even before he ventured into television. Among those he has worked on are the Manuela-Star Mall, the Ayala Center and the Alabang Town Center. "That's my bread and butter," he says of his design work, and adds with a laugh, "And out of the whole week, only one day is devoted to my *hanapbuhay*, Probe."

Che-Che adds, "Where we pay him 1/100th of his true worth!"

Robert has also designed books and other print media, and his artworks can be seen on a variety of canvases, from shopping bags to restaurant place mats.

Alejandro jokes, "Whoever will pay me, I will work for, so I can sustain working with Probe."

Being part of the award-winning Probe Productions has given him a discipline to produce similarly respectable and innovative work.

"I've been with Probe four years," he says. "The standards of the Probe work are the same standards we're applying on 'Art is-Kool.' In Probe, we're given all the chance to be creative."

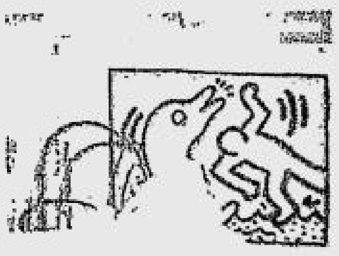
The art instructor has asked for permission, for instance, to shoot videos of himself and his friend teaching. "They're like, 'Go, shoot, do whatever you want!' You have that opportunity.

"And they actually air it on national television. *Parang*, wow, what an opportunity that is!"

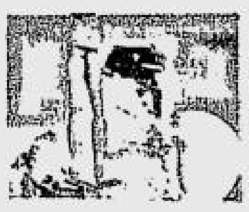
Robert considers the outdoors as his element, and sports an important part of his life. The enormously animated artist gets recognized more often now, but he confesses an initial reluctance to being a celebrity of sorts.

"When I'm in front of the camera, I'm playing *lang*," he claims. "When I started, I wanted to die. I just prayed that a truck would run over me. I guess there's a certain type of person who wants to be in front of the camera, and I'm not one of them. But now, I'm used to it. The crazy things I've done . . . *'Yung tumatalon-talon. Sasabihin nila sa akin, 'Kumanta ka!'* On national television! They always say, 'For the children, Robert, for the children!'"

"Kuya Robert" will conduct an art workshop on Sept. 13 at the Metropolis Star Mall in Alabang. The first 100 kids who bring an artwork each (that they learned to do from "Art is-Kool") can join the workshop.



ALEJANDRO. The new "Uncle Bob"



MTV's September to remember

SEPTEMBER, the first of the "-ber" months is here, and MTV makes it a month to remember for all music lovers.

Coming up are sure to be a delight for sore eyes and ears:

MTV's newest VJ darling, KC Concepcion, hosts "MTV Lokal" beginning Sept. 15, 5 p.m., and "MTV Mush" on Sept. 18, 8 p.m. Watch her debut on the new MTV show, "In Da House," on Oct. 16.

Ashton Kutcher, the next big thing and the boyfriend of superstar Demi Moore, he plays practical jokes on his friends Justin Timberlake, Jessica Alba, Britney Spears, and more on "Punk'd," every Monday, 8:30 p.m., with repeats on Wednesday, 1 p.m., and Sunday, 8 p.m.

On "Classic MTV," the show that delivers video oldies but goodies, VJ KC Montero delivers the "Bald as I Wanna Be" special starting Sept. 10.

"MTV Lokal" will feature Barbie's Cradle on Sept. 12, Parokya ni Edgar on Sept. 19, Anna Fegi on Sept. 26, and more are lined up.

"MTV Fashionista" VJ Patty checks out the sport of wakeboarding on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 8 p.m.

"MTV Rock/d" shows "Videos You Haven't Seen in a While," on Sept. 11, 10 p.m.

On "Be Seen @ MTV," stock car racers take off their crash helmets and let their hair down as they party at the Tuason Ford Racing Party at the Power Plant Mall, Sept. 23, 8 p.m.

Carson Daly is featured in the comedy concert "MTV Bash," which premieres Sept. 23, 6 p.m., with a repeat on Sept. 25, 1 p.m. Some of the celebrities that took part are Madonna, Britney Spears, P. Diddy, Justin Timberlake, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Jimmy Kimmel, Fred Durst, Nelly, Jon Stewart, Pamela Anderson, Andy Dick, Kid Rock, Jaime Pressly, Mya, Jessica Simpson, Nick Lachey, Papa Roach and more.

Justin and Christina mount what will be this year's biggest tour on "Making the Tour: Justified and Stripped," from the initial rehearsals, to the road and backstage on opening night. Premieres on Sept. 16, 6 p.m., with a repeat on Sept. 18, 1 p.m.

MTV Weekend Specials are on Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m. and 9 p.m.

On Sept. 13 and 14, "MTV Live" features Metallica, Zwan, Audioslave, Queens of the Stone Age, The Cardigans and Muse.

On Sept. 27 and 28, "Backstage Pass Weekend" features the shows "Bandmates," "Posse," "True Life: I'm a Fanatic," "Crowd Control," "Hip Hop Superstars," "Summer Sanitarium Tour Special" and the All-American Rejects concert.

Tavern imposes no-smoke rule

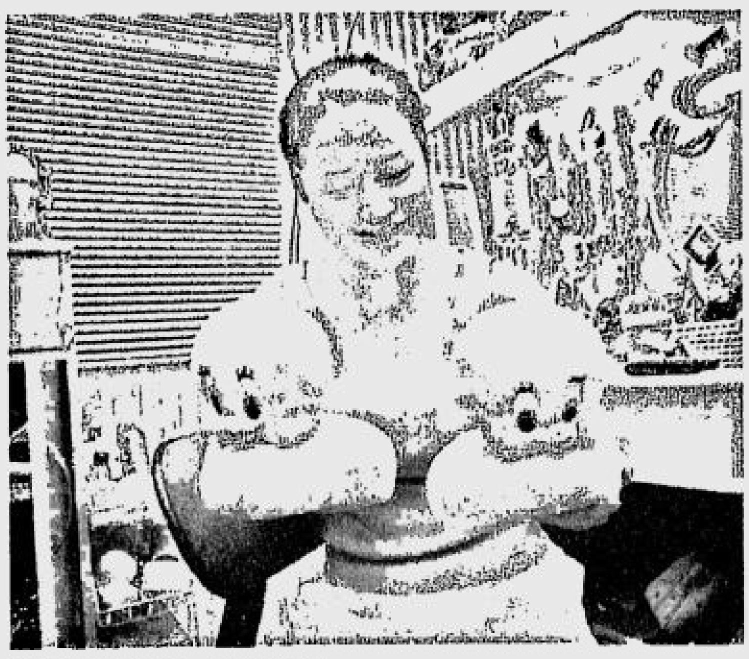
TAVERN on the Square Makati is now a non-smoker's haven.

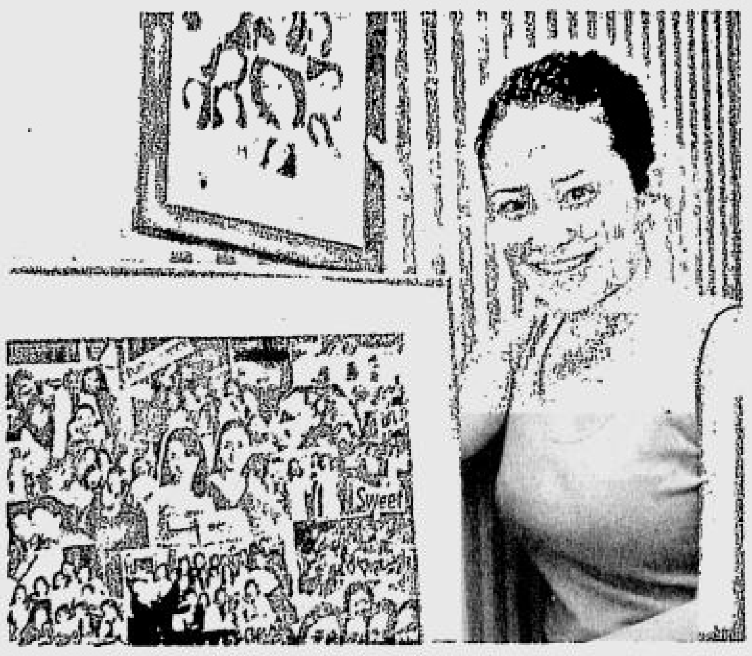
The restaurant at Level 2 of Greenbelt 3 in Makati has implemented a no-smoking policy in keeping with the anti-smoking law, to ensure a clean environment for patrons. Guards at the entrance screen everyone entering the premises and prevent those holding even so much as a cigarette stick from entering. The open 30-seater veranda is reserved for smokers.

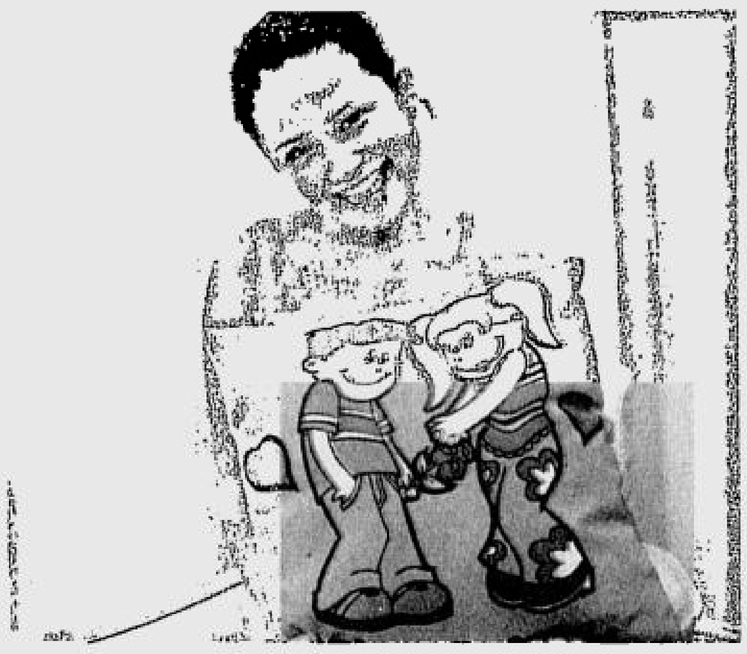
Tavern on the Square celebrates its first anniversary with various promos. A prize will be given away to the 20th guest, and surprise gifts also await groups of 20, every Tuesday and Thursday.

The price of local beer has been drastically cut to P20++ every Tuesday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Ladies' drinks have a 20-percent discount after happy hour every Tuesday and Thursday.

Tavern on the Square performers in September are Freestyle on Mondays, Route 70 on Tuesdays, Side A on Wednesdays, Richard Villanueva with Rated R on Thursdays, Fat Session on Fridays and Parliament Syndicate with Chedi on Saturdays.


TWEET-TWEET for Kat's feet


COLLEGE collage from friends at Assumption


NO-THROWAWAY pillow, even without butterflies

Twinpicks

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHILE watching television in her grandmother's house a few years ago, Kristine Gonzales vowed to her grandmother that one day, she would get to watch her beloved granddaughter on TV every day.

"I never thought it would happen this soon," Kristine tells INQUIRER Entertainment in their house in Parañaque City.

Kristine and her twin sister Katrina became known countrywide after they won the Miss Pond's Soft Skin title last year. That in turn led to a three-year contract with ABS-CBN, which made them co-hosts of the noontime show "Masayang Tanghali Bayan."

The girls, who turned 18 last July, became known as the Jaboom Twins, who are seen daily on "MTB" segments like "Ukay-Ukay Challenge" and "Super Jack and Poy." They also display comedic flair in the "Feeling F4" portion where they alternately portray the role of San Cai.

Katrina, who is also known as Jaja, is older than Kristine or Boom Boom by three minutes. A closer look shows that Katrina, who is 5-foot-4, is taller than her twin sister by an inch.

"We may look alike to you but we're really, really different," says Katrina. "*Mas kikay ako.* Tin (Kristine) likes plain clothes. She has clothes of the same style but in different colors. Tin is so conservative. She borrows from me all the clothes she wears on 'MTB.'"

"*Hindi naman*," says Tin. "I just don't have time to go shopping. I'd rather sleep or watch telenovelas.

"I'm the romantic type," adds Tin. "Chocolates and roses mean so much to me. Kat is more practical."

Tin says Kat prefers gifts that she can use, like the butterfly décor items the latter hangs all over her room, or the cute hair bands given by her friends.

"My room doesn't have as much clutter," says Tin. "*Mas mukhang malinis.* Besides, most of my stuff are in Lola's house."

Since their grandfather died in 1996, Tin usually sleeps in her grandmother's house, which is just a house away from theirs.

Kat says her sister is the more sentimental one. Tin still keeps gifts she got when they were still three years old simply "because they remind her of something," Kat says.

"Kat owes me money," says Tin. "She ran out of money because she shops too much."

"I shop so you can have things to borrow," Kat says. "See, I found my orange dress in your closet!"

Kat's belt. "I've had this belt since I was in Grade 5. I still use it. It's yellow, black, red, green and blue. I can wear it with any kind of shirt."

Kat's t-shirts. "I've had this yellow top since I was 9. I still wear this but it's a lot tighter now, of course.

"My favorite white shirt got stained so I bought a new one. I love wearing white shirts. They go well with any of my belts."

Tin's T-shirt. "This is memorable because I wore this during our first cheering competition in school. This reminds me how embarrassed we were. *Sobrang pangit ng* cheering moves *namin*. On the back of this shirt is the phrase 'nothing to lose.' *Bagay sa aming mga* freshmen.

"I still use some of my cheering uniforms, like this cheering shirt I wore in my second year. Look at it, *ang liit na 'di ba?*"

Kat's blouses. "This beige, sequined blouse is my lucky halter top. I passed every audition that I went to wearing this, like the audition for Pond's and 'MTB.' I pair it with this brown belt.

"This red blouse is memorable because Aubrey (Miles) gave it to me, along with this black spaghetti-strapped blouse. She bought this in one of her US trips. I haven't worn it. I'm saving it for special occasions.

"I wore this beaded spaghetti-strapped blouse in our debut party. Tin and I were part of a J Lo. dance number. I love the butterfly design. This blouse has a matching pair of cargo pants."

Tin's blouses. "I also have a lucky blouse just like Kat's. But mine is black. I wore this to a Cinderella image model audition.

"This orange blouse was given by *Ate* Ai-Ai (de las Alas). Kat has one, too. We wore this in the 'Super Jack and Poy' portion.

"This brown blouse has a matching skirt. Cowboy look, *'di ba?* This is so memorable that I couldn't throw it away. I had worn this in almost all school programs that I was part of."

Kat's nightshirt. "This pink cotton nightshirt from Calvin Klein really feels good on my skin. I pair it with pyjamas or shorts."

Tin's nightshirt. "I love the silk fabric. Sexy, *'di ba?* I also wear shorts of the same fabric. I got this as a present on my 18th birthday."

Kat's pants. "I'm into cargo pants these days. This pair of white stretchables is my favorite. It has a red lining. I'm so in love with this, I wear it three times a week! *Dapat laba kaagad.*

"These two pairs of jeans are my favorite. One pair is cargo while the other is bootleg. I like the beads and rhinestones on them. I like how they shimmer and glitter at night. I can wear them with just about any blouse.

"People say these brown slacks with white stripes make me look demure and classy. Feeling *ko napakasosi*."

Tin's pants. "I like wearing jeans more than skirts. My favorite is this pair of stretchables. I look sexy wearing it because it hugs the waist nicely. It makes my thighs look slim, too."

Kat's skirt. "*Sobrang* mini *ito*. I pair this with blouses with plunging necklines of any color and with high-heeled sandals."

Tin's skirt. "This denim skirt has been with me for as long as I can remember. My aunt Nel gave this to me. This is the first gift she gave me that I really, really liked."

Kat's jackets. "I like this brown jacket because when you zip it up, you'll see its beaded butterfly design. I love butterflies, especially on my clothes.

"I wore this old rose jacket on my way to 'MTB' almost everyday. It's easy to wash and it's not too heavy to carry."

Tin's sweaters and jackets. "This pink sweater is really, really old. I first wore this in Baguio when I was three years old. I brought it when our family went to Canada.

"I borrowed this jacket from an ex-boyfriend and I never returned it. I brought this to Canada, too. All my photographs taken in Canada show me wearing this. It has lots of pockets, so I don't have to bring a bag."

Kat's dresses. "My dad bought me this for a high school dance. Buy-one-take-one *pa nga ito, eh.* I still wear it when I go to the beach. I found it too long so I had it cut to knee-length.

"This brown dress is new. Exotic looking, *'di ba?* I wore this to a friend's debut. Feeling *ko ako si* J Lo. I bought the fabric and asked Tonette to make me a dress. Tonette takes care of all our wardrobes on 'MTB.'"

Tin's dress. "I made Kat buy this for me. I joined a beauty pageant in school. Latin-inspired *ang* number *ko*. This is my lucky dress because I won most of the major awards, including the main beauty title."

Kat's bag. "I bought this last year. Look at how dirty it is. I use it all the time. It's unique. I love the sequins. I can put just about anything in it and still look trendy."

Kat's slip-ons. "I like this old rose pair from Ferretti because of the sequins. It makes me feel like I'm walking on a carpeted floor. *Sarap sa paa.*

"These Tweety Bird slippers were given to me by my first love. I only wear them on special occasions, like when I went on a retreat with my classmates."

Kats' boots. "I bought this pair at Think Big at Glorietta just this year. I match it with a mini-skirt or knee-length pants. I wear this *kapag* feel *ko maging kikay*."

Kat's accessories. "This necklace was a birthday gift from Willie Revillame. Tin has one, too. But while my pendant is an image of the sun, hers is the moon. Willie said the sun matches my sunny disposition. Tin is more romantic *kasi*.

"I made this necklace myself. I bought the semi-precious stones and tied them together in just one sitting."

Tin's accessories. "I don't have as much

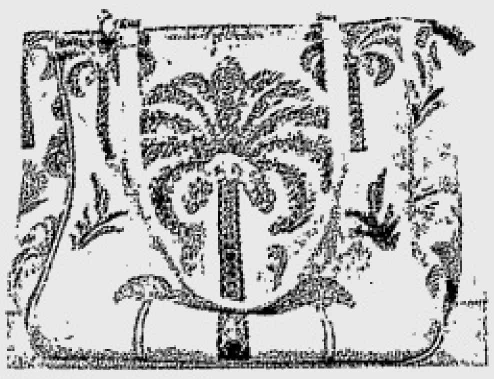
TWIN/ C6

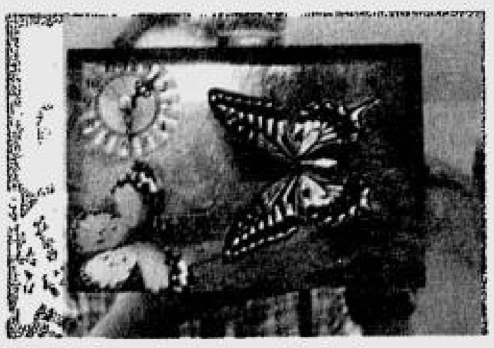
OUT OF THE CLOSET

Tin: Kat ran out of money because she shops too much. Kat: I shop so you can have things to borrow

TWO OF A KIND. Kat (left) is practical, while Tin is romantic.

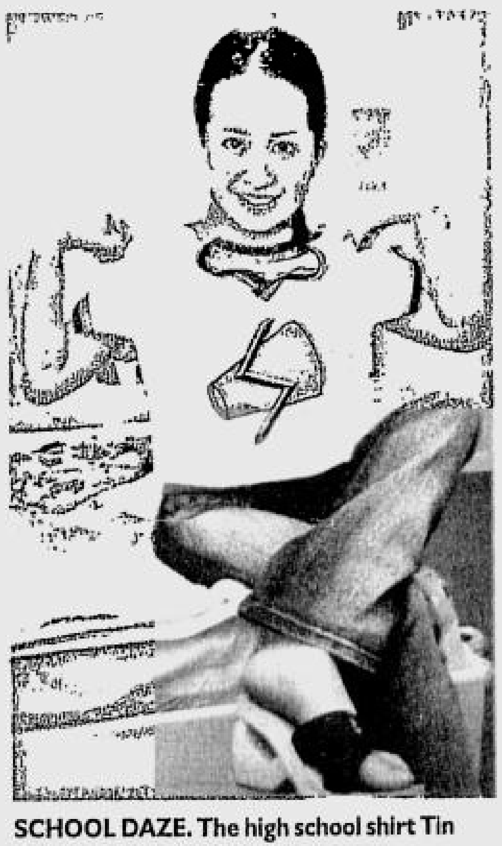
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN


BAG of beads, Kat's


FLOWN from Paris, butterfly clock

TWO-TONE. Kat (right) is Ja-Ja, Tin is Boom-Boom

SILK on skin, Tin's nightwear


SCHOOL DAZE. The high school shirt Tin refuses to give up.

AT SIXES and sevens over F4

OLD, NEW. Former and present talents (from left) Randy Santiago, Ramon Zamora, Boots Anson-Roa, Pilita Corrales and Fred Panopio

YOUNG AT HEART. "Tita" Betty Mendez (right), who used to host a Sunday children's show on radio in the '60s, join with fellow ex-staffers who are in their 60s, or older.

TODAY, YESTERDAY. Network chair Lopez meets James Lindenberg.

Home are the stars

Network relives first five decades in the business

By Ella G. Mangabat
Contributor

MEMORIES of the glorious first 50 years of the country's first and largest television network came rushing when ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. held its grand celebration, the "Kapamilya Homecoming," last Aug. 30.

More than 4,000 former network employees, executives and talents filled the network compound and studios to renew ties and to relive the memories of their good old ABS-CBN days.

While majority of the alumni are still able-bodied, a handful came with their canes or wheelchairs and were accompanied by their family members.

The big bosses, headed by chair and CEO Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, president and COO Freddie M. Garcia (FMG), vice chair Jake Almeda Lopez, and EVP and head for entertainment Charo Santos-Concio, were all present.

And so was James Lindenberg, known as the father of Philippine TV, being the founder of Bolinao Electronics Corp.

Faded photographs

One of those who came was Ernesto Pabalan, now 70. Pabalan worked in the engineering department in 1960, barely three years after Alto Broadcasting System (ABS) merged with Chronicle Broadcasting Network (CBN).

Pabalan displayed his old company ID on his shirt and brought along some faded photographs just in case, he said, he would have trouble getting admitted to the homecoming.

Asked if he saw any of his co-workers that day, Pabalan shook his head and said he barely knew anybody from his days in the department. "I think I'm only one of the few who are still surviving to this day," he said with a hint of sadness. "It's a bit sad that they were not able to make it today and see what ABS-CBN has achieved all these years."

Some alumni are now bigwigs in their own fields, like the network's former news and current affairs vice president Rod Reyes, top PR man Charlie Agatep who was the network's first programming director, former field reporter Gilbert Remulla who is now a Cavite congressman, and former "Hoy Gising!" anchor Ted Failon who is now a Leyte congressman.

Past and present

Also present were Gloria Sevilla, Betty Mendez, Eddie Mercado, Tita Muñoz, Robert Arevalo, Perla Bautista, Gina Pareño, Boots Anson-Roa, TV director Fritz Ynfante, actor-comedian Ramon Zamora and singer Fred Panopio.

The homecoming also featured bazaars, mini-shows, raffles and musical numbers, among others, and food and drink booths lined the walkways.

A thanksgiving mass, officiated by Fr. Carmelo Caluag, S.J., was held in the evening, followed by a special show at Studio 10. The production numbers paid tribute to the pioneering programs of the network, memorable station IDs and theme songs, and departed ABS-CBN family members.

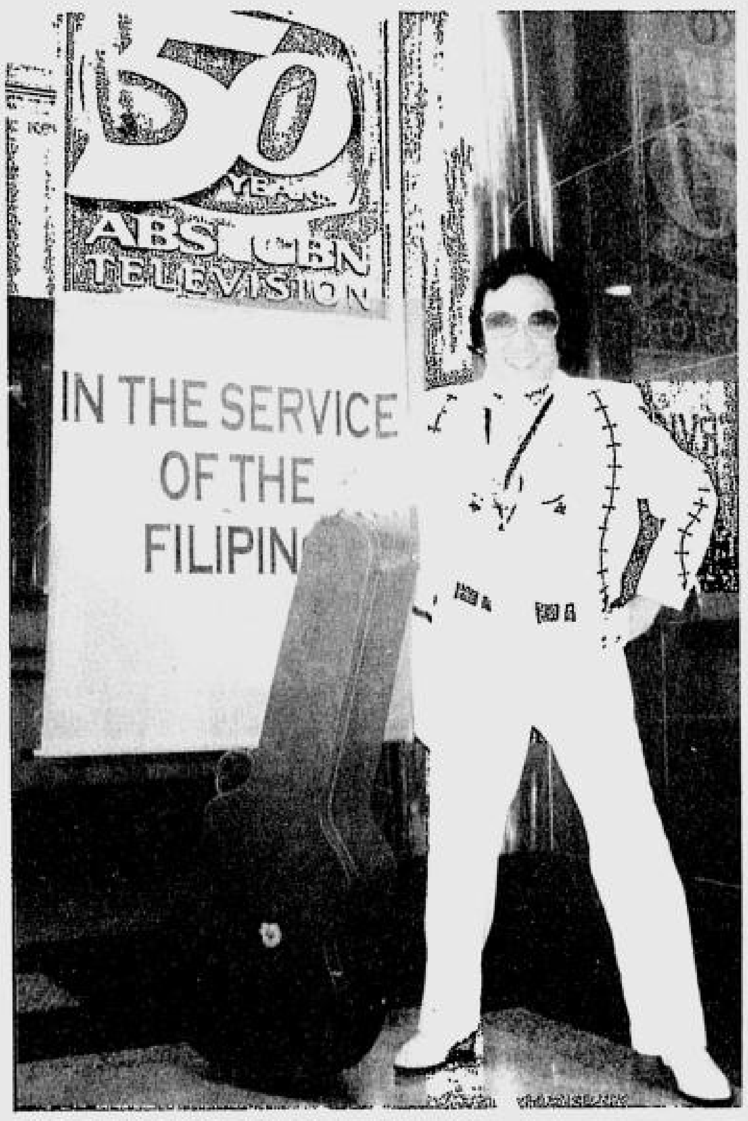
The network's stars past and present, including those from the news and current affairs department, performed: Tony Santos Jr., Lito Calzado and Anna Feliciano of "Oras ng Ligaya;" Perla Adea, Sonny Cortez and Romy Mallari of "D' Sensations;" Gio Alvarez, Jan Marini, Lindsay Custodio and Roselle Nava of "Ang TV';" and Randy Santiago, Willie Revillame, Bayani Agbayani, Dennis Padilla, Tado, Bentong, Mahal and Mura of "Masayang Tanghali Bayan."

Featured in the news department song number were Senators Loren Legarda and Noli De Castro, Korina Sanchez, Dong Puno, Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, Luchie Cruz-Valdez, Kata Inocencio, Arlene de Castro and Jake Maderazo.

Concert king Martin Nievera, Pilita Corales and Dulce wowed the crowd with their performances.

The show was hosted by Ariel Ureta, with Korina and Kris Aquino of "Morning Girls."

This year's homecoming was certainly the most meaningful, according to Gabby Lopez. "We are here in honor of our most resounding triumph, our ABS-CBN family, which has only grown bigger and better with time."


50 YEARS
ABS CBN TELEVISION
IN THE SERVICE OF THE FILIPIN

"ELVIS of the Philippines" Edgar Opida

> A 70-year-old pinned his old company ID on his shirt and brought some faded photos in case, he said, he would have trouble getting admitted to the reunion

VICE CHAIR Jake Almeda Lopez

WILLING, ABLE. Former program manager Jimmy Navarro is welcomed by Nova Villa.

SHOW STOPPER

COUPLES, FRIENDS. Perla Adea and Romy Mallari, a love team on "D' Sensation," are now a real-life couple. At right, director Fritz Ynfante and host with the most jokes Ariel Ureta

BROADCASTERS, LAWMAKERS (from left) Representative Failon, Senator De Castro, with network VP Puno

GENERATIONS. Old-timers Eddie Mercado and Gina Pareño, with Gina's daughter and Angelica Jones

RADIO DAYS. "Tia" Dely Magpayo (middle) joins contemporaries.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 PINAY PIE
2 S.W.A.T.
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 S.W.A.T.
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 S.W.A.T. 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
4 SPY KIDS 3D
5 SINBAD
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7 PINAY PIE

GB1 GREENBELT 1
Art Film
1 PINAY PIE 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
2 S.W.A.T. 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
Onstage
MARTIN NIEVERA Sep. 12 & 13, 9PM
BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept 18 - 7PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 S.W.A.T. 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:55, 11:15
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SINBAD 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 4 ITALIAN JOB 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
GUARANTEED SEATS 5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
THX 1 S.W.A.T.
2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3 PINAY PIE
4 SINBAD
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

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9 (DOLBY) SINBAD

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 WWW.XXX.COM
2 PINAY PIE
3 PINAY PIE
4 (SDDS) SWAT
5 SINBAD
6 (DOLBY) PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE-2
8 NEW BLOOD
9 SPY KIDS-3D

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 WWW.XXX.COM
2 (SDDS) SWAT
3 (DTS) PINAY PIE
4 (DOLBY) SWAT
5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 PINAY PIE
2 LEGALLY BLONDE-2
3 (DTS) PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 (SDDS) SWAT

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson
Lords
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MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SWAT
2 PINAY PIE
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 LEGALLY BLONDE-2

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) SWAT
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4 PINAY PIE
5 WWW.XXX.COM

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 WWW.XXX.COM
2 PINAY PIE

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MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 WWW.XXX.COM
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
4 (SDDS) SWAT
5 (DTS) SPY KIDS-3D
6 SINBAD
7 LEGALLY BLONDE-2

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926
1 MOTEL
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DTS) SWAT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SINBAD
2 (DTS) PINAY PIE
3 (DOLBY) SWAT
4 LEGALLY BLONDE-2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 PINAY PIE
2 (DOLBY) SWAT
3 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4 SINBAD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 KEKA
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DOLBY) FINDING NEMO
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 PINAY PIE
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 (DOLBY) A WALKING IN RENO
4 (DTS) FINDING NEMO

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) PINAY PIE
2 (DTS) WWW.XXX.COM
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SWAT
2 BIGAY HILIG
3 (DTS) WWW.XXX.COM
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SWAT
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4 MOTEL
5 SINBAD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 LEGALLY BLONDE-2
2 MOTEL
3 RESERVE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 LEGALLY BLONDE-2
2 PINAY PIE
3 FINDING NEMO

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 A VIEW FROM THE TOP
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DTS) WWW.XXX.COM
4 (DOLBY) NAKED WEAPON

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 MOTEL
2 PINAY PIE
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ALEX & EMMA
2 DARK WATER
3 SPY KIDS-3D
4 PINAY PIE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) SWAT
2 PINAY PIE
3 (DTS-ES) LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4 SINBAD

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 PINAY PIE
2 SINBAD
3 (DOLBY) SWAT
4 (DTS) LEGALLY BLONDE-2

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Filinvest - Alabang
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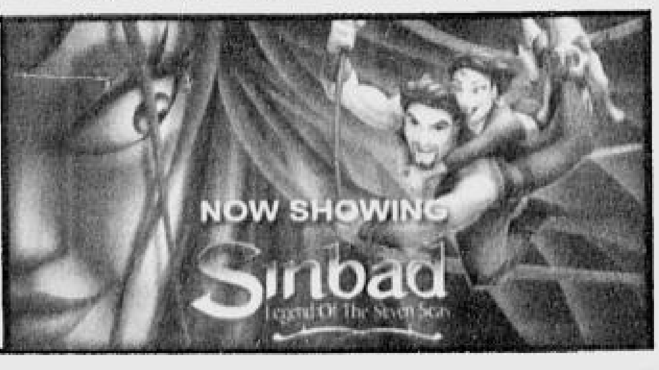
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Legend Of The Seven Seas

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

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3 S.W.A.T.
4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6 PINAY PIE
7 SPY KIDS 3-D
8 SINBAD

SM CENTERPOINT
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1 PINAY PIE
2 S.W.A.T.
3 S.W.A.T.
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6 NEW BLOOD
7 SPY KIDS 3-D
8 SINBAD
9 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
10 ITALIAN JOB

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 SPY KIDS 3-D
2 VISIBLE SECRET
3 LXG
4 S.W.A.T.
5 SINBAD
6 PINAY PIE
7 S.W.A.T.
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
9 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
10 PINAY PIE
11 LXG
12 WWW.XXX.COM

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 SINBAD
4 S.W.A.T.
5 SPY KIDS 3-D
6 S.W.A.T.
7 WWW.XXX.COM
8 LXG
9 PINAY PIE
10 NEW BLOOD
11 ITALIAN JOB
12 PINAY PIE

SM MEGAMALL
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1 (FOR SEAT RESERVATION, CALL 6330038) S.W.A.T.
2 SINBAD
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5 LXG
6 FINDING NEMO
7 PINAY PIE
8 SPY KIDS 3-D
9 ITALIAN JOB
10 S.W.A.T.
11 WWW.XXX.COM
12 NEW BLOOD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
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2 SINBAD
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 PINAY PIE
5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6 SPY KIDS 3-D
7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
8 S.W.A.T.

SM SOUTHMALL
8066886
1 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 S.W.A.T.
4 SINBAD
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 FINDING NEMO
7 PINAY PIE
8 S.W.A.T.
9 SPY KIDS 3-D
10 WWW.XXX.COM

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 S.W.A.T.
2 FINDING NEMO
3 ITALIAN JOB
4 SINBAD
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
7 PINAY PIE
8 S.W.A.T.

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 LXG
2 RESERVED
3 PINAY PIE
4 FINDING NEMO
5 SINBAD
6 ITALIAN JOB
7 RESERVED
8 NAKED WEAPON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 S.W.A.T.
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 SINBAD
6 PINAY PIE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 SINBAD
2 PINAY PIE
3 S.W.A.T.
4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 S.W.A.T.
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 PINAY PIE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 ITALIAN JOB
2 FINDING NEMO
3 PINAY PIE
4 PINAY PIE
5 SINBAD
6 ITALIAN JOB

SM BICUTAN
776-3055
1 S.W.A.T.
2 PINAY PIE
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 SINBAD

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
850-2884
1 ITALIAN JOB
2 WWW.XXX.COM
3 PINAY PIE
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

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633-8976

1 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:05/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00/10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

2 S.W.A.T.
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:35
LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

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1 S.W.A.T 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 THX
2 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3 SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
4 S.W.A.T. 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 PINAY PIE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
7 ITALIAN JOB 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:40, 9:00
8 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
9 SPY KIDS 3D 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
10 WWW.XXX.COM 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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Ermita 536-717809 TO 13
1 S.W.A.T - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2 Pirates of the Carribean - 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40, 12:00
3 WWW.XXX.COM 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 SINBAD- 10:15, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
5 SPY KIDS 3D - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
6 PINAY PIE - 10:20, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:40
7 LEGALLY BLONDE - 2 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40

Metro East Marcos hway 682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280
1 ITALIAN JOB
2 S.W.A.T.
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
5 SPY KIDS 3D
6 PINAY PIE
7 SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
8 WWW.XXX.COM

Novaliches 935-3229/31
1 SINBAD--LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 WWW.XXX.COM
4 S.W.A.T.
5 SPY KIDS 3D
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8 PINAY PIE

Malabon Citisquare 288-0985, 288-2575
1 WWW.XXX.COM
2 PINAY PIE
3 S.W.A.T.
4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2

Star Mills Sn. Fernando, Pamp (045) 875-1927, (045) 961-5270
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 PINAY PIE
3 LEGALLY BLONDE
4 WWW.XXX.COM
5 SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
6 S.W.A.T.

Imus (046) 471-8188, (046) 875-5858
1 S.W.A.T
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5 PINAY PIE
6 WWW.XXX.COM

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049) 837-09-07
1 PINAY PIE
2 S.W.A.T.
3 SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Bacolod (034) 441-0458-59
1 ITALIAN JOB
2 ALEX AND EMMA
3 PINAY PIE
4 FINDING NEMO
5 WAKING UP IN RENO
6 NENA INOSENTE

Iloilo (033) 336-8070/78
1 ITALIAN JOB
2 VIEW FROM THE TOP
3 PINAY PIE
4 SINBAD--LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
5 WAKING UP IN RENO
6 NAKED WEAPON

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Twin ...

From page C3

accessories as Kat. I started collecting necklaces only when my sponsors started giving me some."

Kat's F4 collection. "I'm so in love with Dao Ming Shi. I have the soundtrack and all original DVDs. I hate myself because I can't find the huge Dao Ming Shi poster that Aubrey gave me."

Kat's bandanna collection. "I bought all of them. I don't use them as hankies but as bandannas. They add character to the people who wear them."

Kat's pictures. "This collage was given to us by our Assumption College friends on our 18th birthday. Tin didn't want to hang it on her wall, so *akin na lang*. The other framed photo is our first print ad commercial for Ponds."

Kat's butterfly clock. "My mom gave this to me. She has a friend who went to Paris and bought this for her. Isn't it cute?"

Kat's perfume. "I like Kenzo. I've been using this for the past five months. I like it because the first time I wore it at a mall in Makati, all the guys turned their heads. My friends said, 'Kat, *lahat ng guys na dinaanan mo umamoy*.'"

Tin's perfume. "I like Escape by Calvin Klein because the scent lasts longer than any other perfume."

Kat's pillow. "I will never throw this pillow away. This is the first time someone gave me a pillow for a gift. Too bad the design doesn't have a butterfly."

DID YOU KNOW...

The **Valencianos**, led by **Gary** and his wife **Angeli Pangilinan**, were seen watching the Trumpet's version of the British musical "Honk!" at the Meralco Theater two Sundays ago. Their eldest child, **Paolo**, is in the merry cast of "Honk!"

Monique launches album with concert

From page C8

Here to Stay," "How Long Has This Been Going On," "Isn't it a Pity," among others.

In the album, Monique is accompanied on piano by Pierre Gill of France, and on double bass by Ernie Provencher of Honolulu.

In the concert, Monique will also be singing other Broadway hits including "Think Of Me" (from "Phantom of the Opera"), "Someone Else's Story" (from "Chess"), "Unexpected Song" (from "Tell Me on a Sunday"), "Another Suitcase in Another Hall" (from "Evita"), "Chiquitita" and "I Have a Dream" (from "Mamma Mia"), "Love Changes Everything" (from "Aspects of Love"), and "Where is Love" (from "Oliver").

Adding a dramatic and innovative aspect to the concert is the inclusion of monologues, sketches and poetry showcasing Monique's dramatic prowess.

While completing her MA studies in London, Monique won the Urian award for Best Supporting Actress for the movie "Laro Sa Baga." She also performed in "Classical Monique," a one-woman show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

She came home twice to direct the "Vagina Monologues" V-Day fund-raising performances, where she also performed.

Monique, the artistic director of the New Voice Company, the theater group she formed nine years ago, will also be establishing in London in November a theater group specializing in Asian theater works.

Before her solo concert, Monique will be making a rare theater appearance in Manila in "The Vagina Monologues" with Zeneida Amador and Baby Barredo on Sept. 19 and 20, also at the Republic of Malate Theater. After the concert, Monique flies to Hong Kong where she is directing the fourth staging of the play.

For tickets to "Monique Sings Gershwin and Other Broadway Hits" and other NVC shows, call the New Voice Company Actors Studio, 896-6695, 896-5497, 899-0630, or e-mail nvc@pacific.net.ph. Tickets are also available at Ticketworld outlets, 891-5610.

ARANETA CENTER
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	WWW.XXX.COM
Ali 2	PINAY PIE
Ali 3	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
Ali 4	SWAT
Ali 5	ITALIAN JOB
Ali 6	SINBAD
Ali 7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2

ARANETA COLISEUM

SEPT 10	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 11	UAAP GAMES: UST VS. UE
SEPT 12	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 13	UAAP GAMES: ADMU VS. DLSU
SEPT 14	PBA FED EX VS. GINEBRA

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	WWW XXX COM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PINAY PIE
B	SEX DRIVE
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635 20 79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	LXG
CINEMA-3	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWAT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-6	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	SINBAD
CINEMA-14	WWW XXX COM
CINEMA-15	PINAY PIE

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-1	WWW XXX COM
CINEMA-2	NAKED WEAPON
CINEMA-4	VIEW FROM THE TOP

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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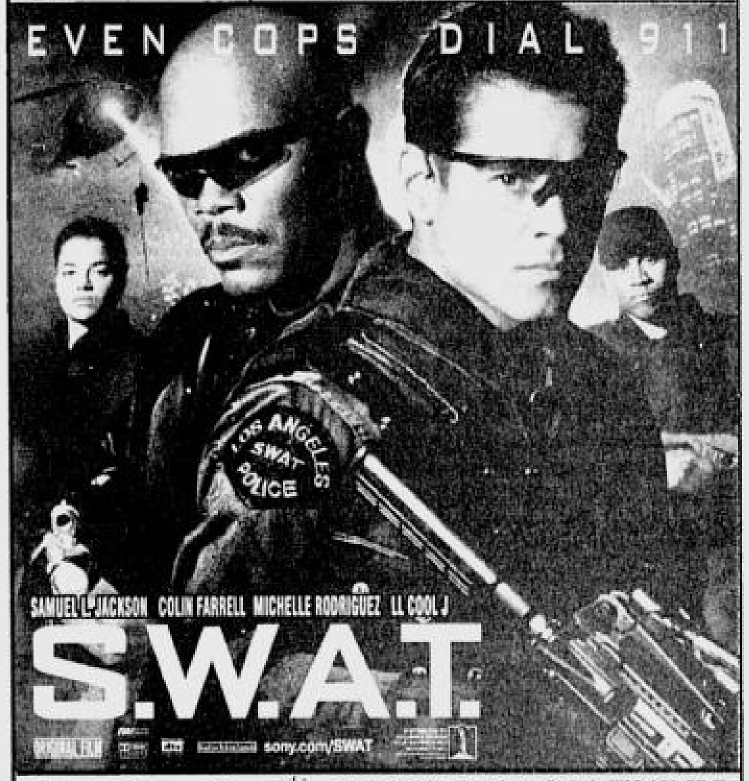
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



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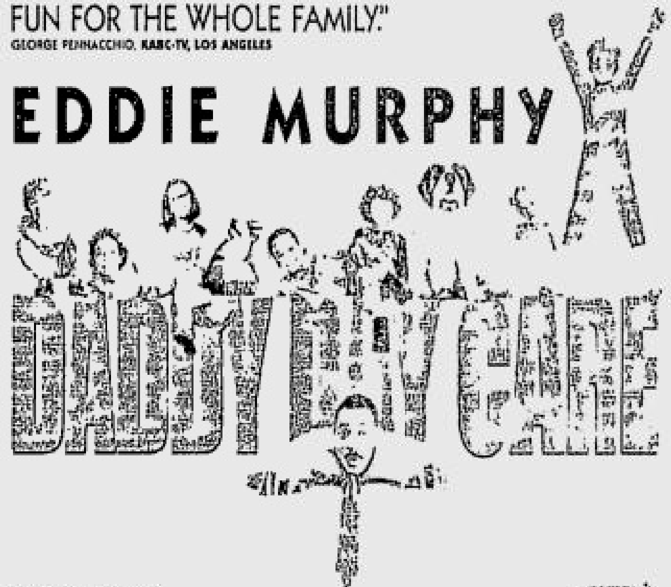
EDDIE MURPHY



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CINEMA 1	S.W.A.T. 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 P13
CINEMA 2	LEGALLY BLONDE 2 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

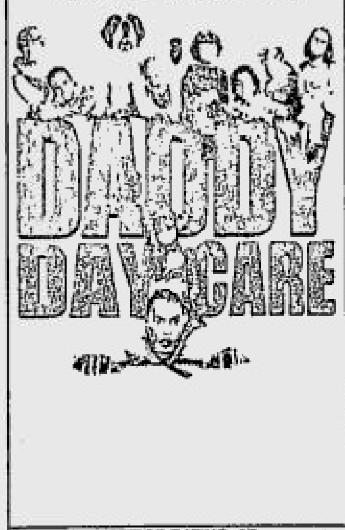
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN PG 13 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	S.W.A.T. PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	LEGALLY BLONDE 2 GP 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10
SINBAD GP 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	PINAY PIE PG13 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	SPY KIDS 3D GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

PAUL WALKER TYRESE EVA MENDES
2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
HOW FAST DO YOU LIKE IT?
OPENS SEPTEMBER 10

EDDIE MURPHY



MTRCB RATING: GP
SM Megamall
Cinema 1

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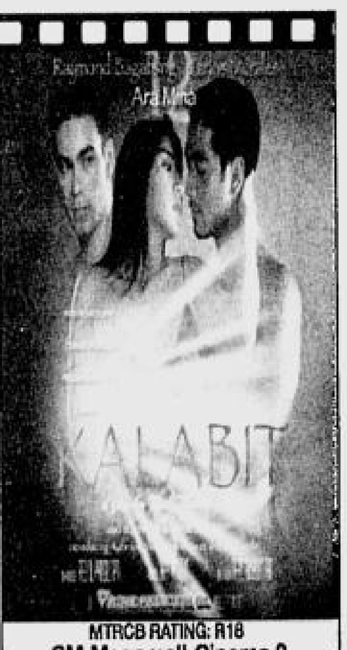
Red Carpet Premiere
Invitational
Snack Studio Inc.
& Kool 106 Premiere
on September 8, 2003
7:30pm
Regular showing on September 10, 2003 at the SM CINEMAS



MTRCB RATING: R18
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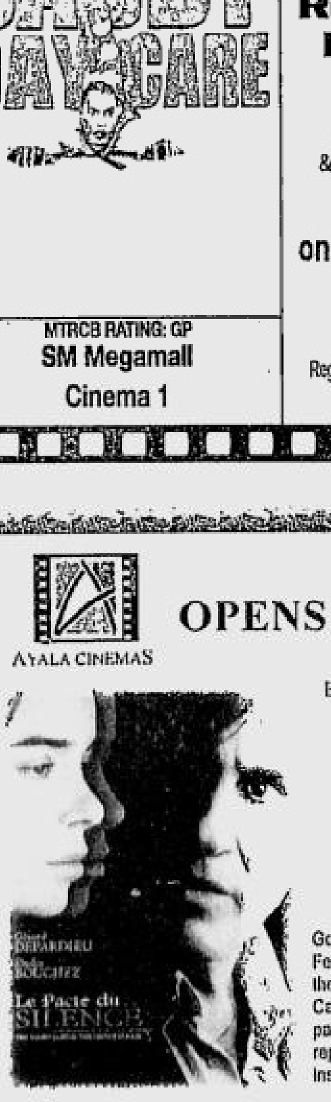
Simultaneously shown at SM Pampanga, SM Davao

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS SEP. 10 AT ArtFilm
DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY
Based on the novel *"Sacre et Profane"* by Marcelle Bernstein
LE PACTE DU SILENCE
(The Pact Of Silence)
What if the truth behind the secret is a lie?
Gérard Depardieu & Elodie Bouchez



Golden Globe winner Gérard Depardieu stars as a Jesuit priest, Dr. Joachim Ferrer. Harboring a secret from his violent past and having found solace in the church, he soon finds himself caught in a web of intrigue when a young Carmelite nun, Sarah, is rushed to his hospital. Suffering from inexplicable pain and delusions, Joachim recognizes in Sarah the familiar symptoms of repression and denial. What no one knows is the terrifying secret she carries inside her

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
NOKIA

Marital breakdown set to music

SHOW TIME

CUTTING TIES. Lauchengco and Gemora play a couple in a failed marriage.

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

AFTER months of absence, Actors Actors. Inc. (AAI) is back with a sung-through musical romance featuring two of Philippine musical theater's premiere performers, Audie Gemora and Menchu Lauchengco.

But don't expect a happy ending in Robert Jason Brown's "The Last Five Years." The romance ends in a divorce. Lauchengco departs from her strong, charismatic leads to tackle a very insecure clinging vine. Gemora, last seen as morally upright, wise mentors in "The Little Mermaid" and "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," portrays an ambitious writer who leaves his wife and sleeps with another woman.

Director Bart Guingona discovered the material in a CD owned by a friend on a trip to Cebu. Two things immediately grabbed his attention.

"It's a matter of expectations, not meeting realities," says Guingona. "There are two sides to a love story. The audience acts as a third party, like a friend, who sees both sides of it. In the beginning, it's easy to judge the husband as an asshole. But at the end, you realize it's not just his fault because you've made the journey with the couple."

Buildup, breakdown

Guingona's second fascination lay in the skewed formatting of the storyline. As opposed to the regular linear plot which narrates the events from start to finish, "The Last Five Years" has Jamie, the successful author, and his wife Cathy, the failed actress, interacting opposite each other from two different time frames. Each character sings juxtaposed to each other a series of monologues that portray pivotal moments in their lives.

The first number starts with Cathy at the end of the story, watching her husband leave her. It then cuts to the second number with Jamie at the very beginning of the relationship, excited and happy at the end of their first date.

From these two points, the play becomes a musical progression with the audience watching the buildup and breakdown of the marriage from two different perspectives: Jamie's from the cloud nine of the first weeks devolving to the bitter ending, juxtaposed with Cathy's lament at the end going back in time to their first ecstatic meeting.

25th year

The couple only meet and sing on stage together once—during the wedding.

As Lauchengco describes it, "My first song answers Audie's last song. The audience finds the parallel line that connects my songs to his, from my sadness to his excitement. Each song is a major event in the characters' lives. All of them show little things [about the marriage] that the audience will connect later on. The characters change before your eyes."

Prior to production, Guingona was already looking for a major piece that could spotlight Lauchengco's 25th year anniversary in the stage. The actress leaped at the chance to play a very lonely, insecure character.

As old friend and theater director Jaime del Mundo warned her, "This is going to be a stretch for you in all aspects. You are not playing an overconfident person and you have to pull back."

He said yes!

As for Lauchengco's leading man, Guingona wanted no one else except Gemora, who has functioned more of a producer and theater company head in recent years.

"Audie can match Menchu," says Guingona. "He has the wisdom and stability of someone who's been through a lot. I called him up and begged him, and I was surprised when he said 'Yes!' sight unseen."

Though good friends since they started out among Repertory Philippines' first batch of core actors in the '70s and '80s, Gemora and Lauchengco have appeared opposite each other in only a handful of plays: "The Sound of Music" where his 17-year-old Rolf courted her 16-year-old Liesl, "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Les Miserables" where his cold-hearted inspector arrested her warm-hearted prostitute, and "Lion" which cast his title character and her White Witch as antagonists.

This time around, Gemora plays a star writer "who's had too much, too soon. Up to the last song, Jamie loves his wife but they just can't get along. She'd ask him to watch her play in Ohio, and he'd refuse because he has a book launch in [another state]. As one of his lines puts it, he will not fail just so she can be comfortable."

Lauchengco is the first to defend her acting partner's character. "Jamie gave a lot to the relationship," she says. "He'd find jobs for her and tell her to audition. But it came to the point that *hindi na niya kaya*. Cathy is a struggling theater actress who's not very good. Because her character is insecure and moody, she tends to cling to him a whole lot. Though she knows that he supports her, she still needs 100 percent of him."

Acting roots

Both actors admit they needed to sink their acting teeth into this kind of a play. Laughingly, both also admit they wouldn't do another Rodgers and Hammerstein musical unless the director gave it a different interpretation with more contemporary insights.

"I'd leave those roles to the ingénues," chuckles Lauchengco, who was THE Philippine theater ingénue for the longest time. "Name the part"—from "West Side Story" to "Oliver!"—"I've done it," she says. "I started off with strong women. Until I got to a point where I said I would do something more. I want roles that make me work."

Lauchengco was responsible for nudging Gemora to return to his acting roots. Gemora recounts, "Last year, while I was supervising a fashion show in a mall, I said something aloud about liking it and wanting tc direct more of those. Menchu, who was beside me, turned to me in shock. 'Audie! You're an actor!'"

The "wake-up call" probably happened just in time. "I'm not getting any younger and I've totally left a talent that God has given me," he adds.

While Gemora could probably get and play any part he wants, his position as the very visible head of a family-friendly, Christian theater company, Trumpets, can sometimes limit his options.

He opens up a little, carefully weighing his words. "Doing roles [like the Christ-like figure Lion and the Biblical Joseph] has its own values and merits—they're for the [spiritual] benefit of the [viewers]. Sometimes, my struggle is with my personal desires as an actor and artist. I feel guilty when I want to do a piece. If I want to do 'Sweeney Todd,' a murderous man who slits people's throats, Christians will raise their eyebrows. If I want to do [the strip-comedy] 'The Full Monty', *problema rin iyon*."

He muses rhetorically, "Is my pursuit of my artistry something to be guilty about? What about me? What do I do now, for my artistic fulfillment? At my age, I will not waste my time doing Rodgers and Hammersteins, repeats, or something that is fluff. That's why if a [substantial] role comes in that's not so controversial, I grab it. Jamie is one example."

AAI's "The Last Five Years" runs at the RCBC Plaza on Sept. 12-14. Call 536-5844, 891-5610, and 0918-938-5253.

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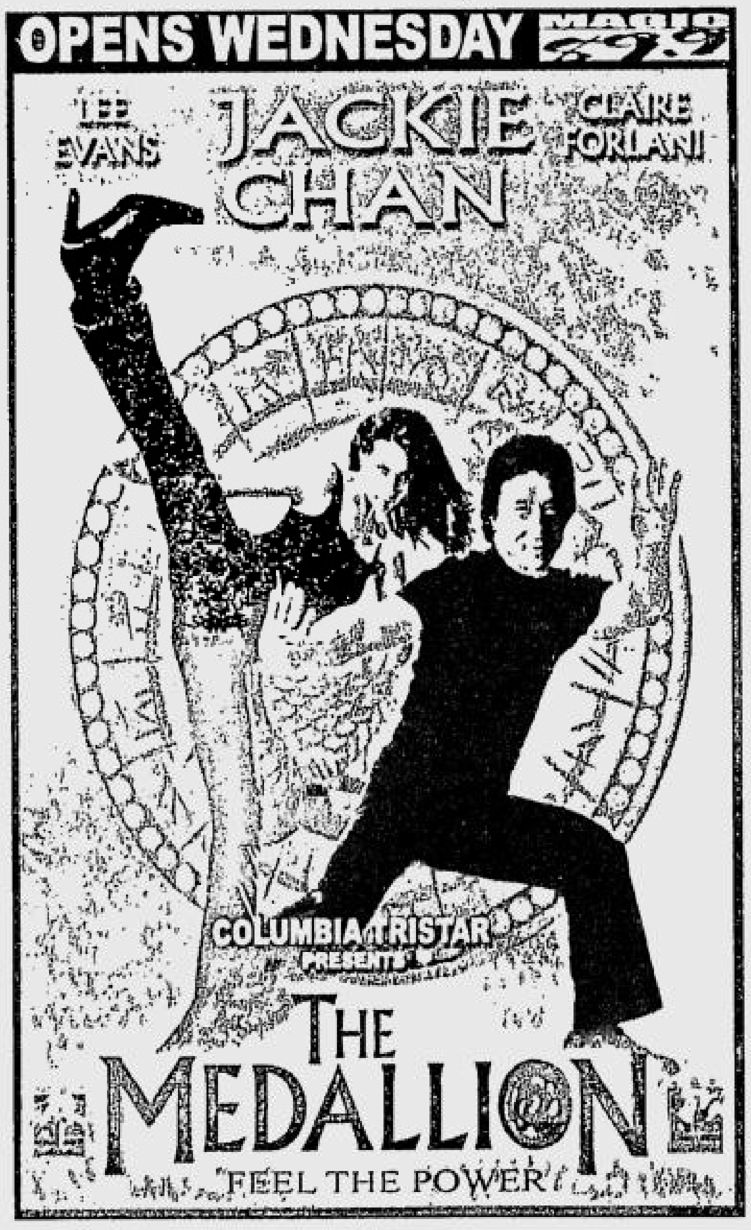

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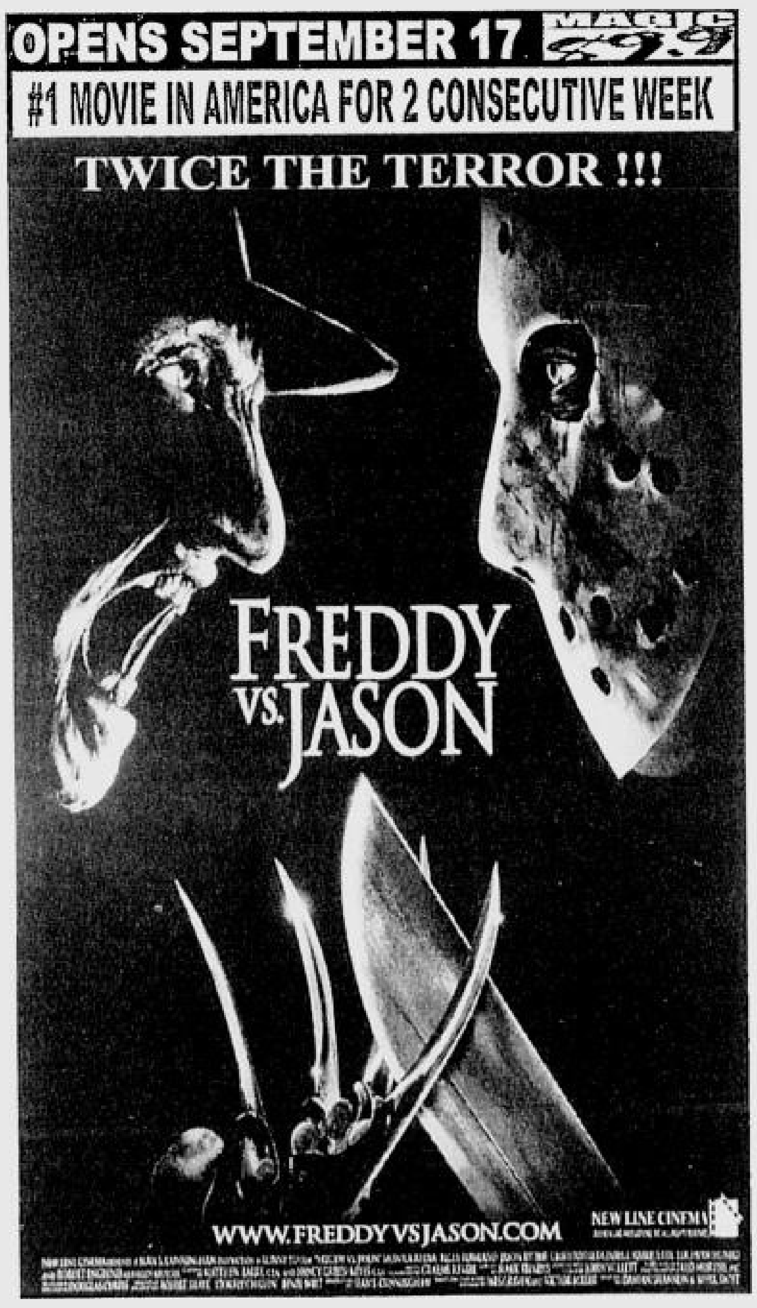

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"MACHO PAPAS" Two of the Masculados in action

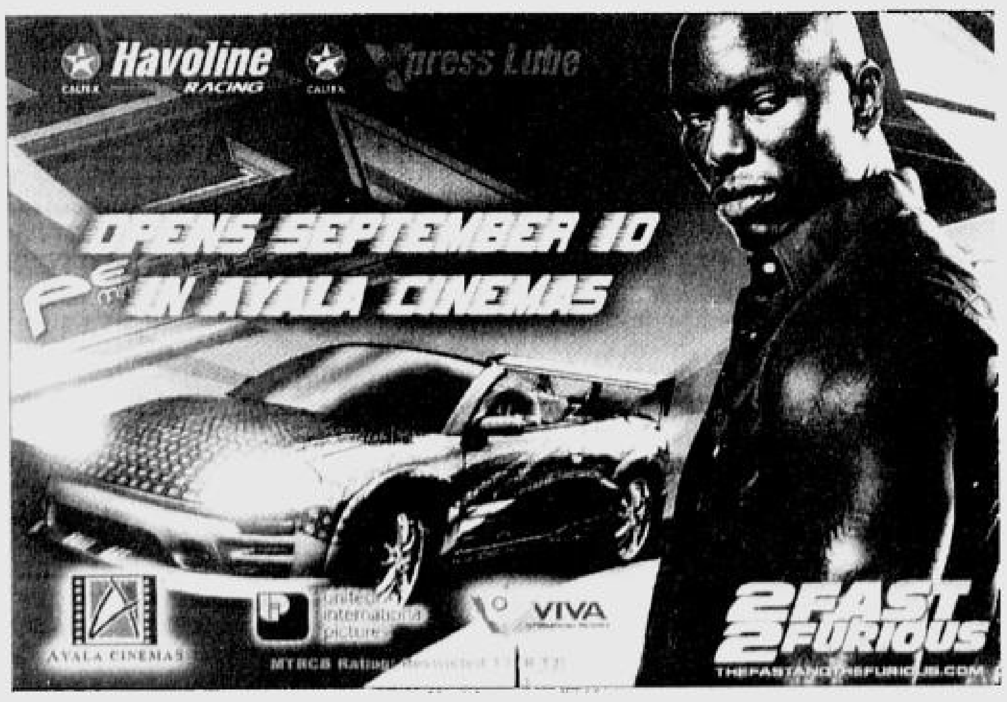
Masculados at Circle C

THE GOOD looks, the buffed bodies and all the right moves of the all-men group Masculados recently stirred up the crowd at Circle C Mall, along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City.

The Masculados, composed of Bok, Zoltan, Lester, Omar, Ailex Robin, and Kiro, continues to inch its way into the public consciousness. Their music is reminiscent of Hagibis.

At Circle C Mall, they sang their own songs like "Sana Mama," "Lagot Ka," "Macho Papa," "Uhhya Uhhya," and "Ratratin," all from their first album which is also called "Masculados."

Circle C managing director Florence Coronel promises to bring more entertainment of the Masculados kind to patrons of Circle C Mall.



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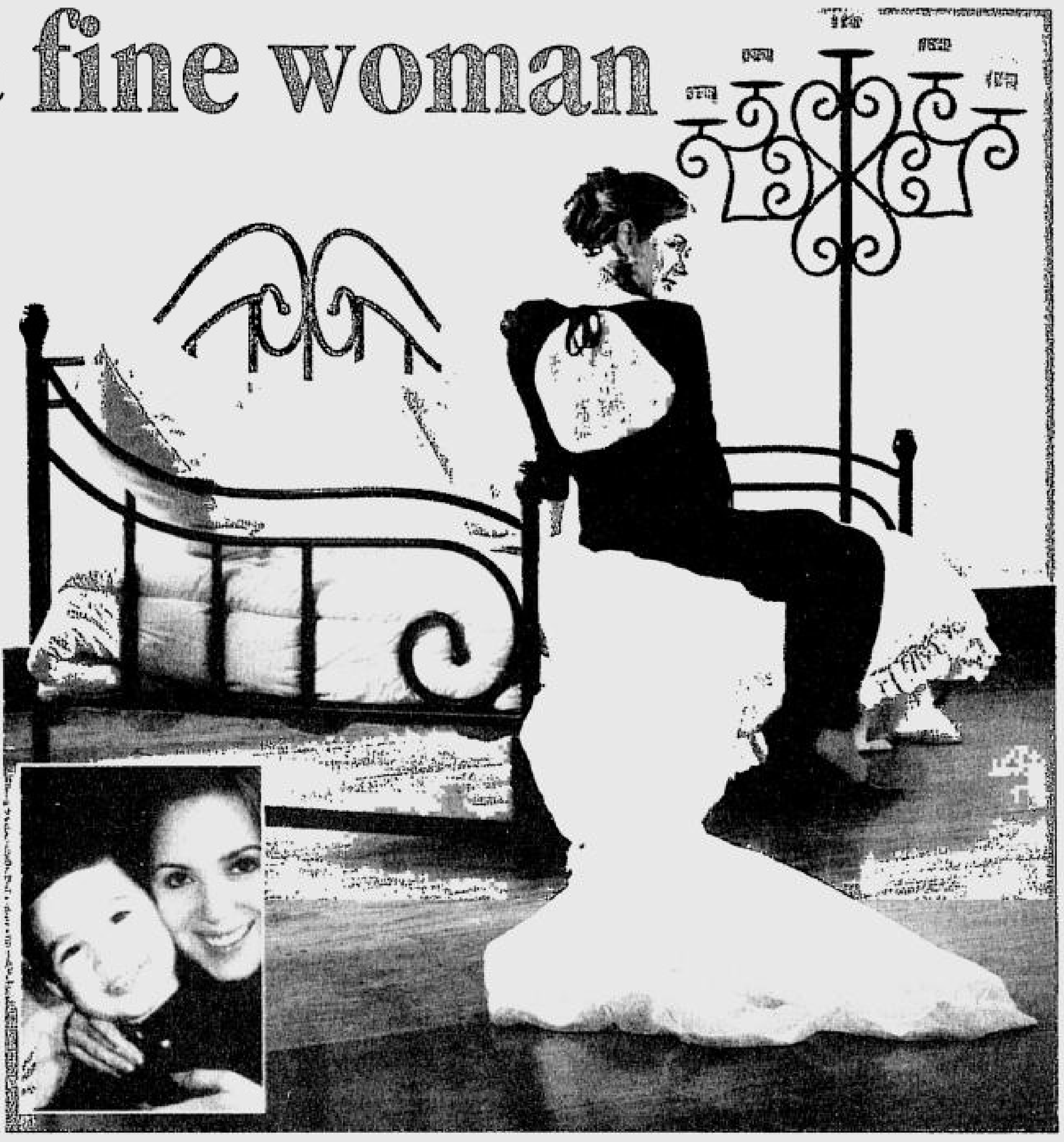

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ANA Margarita Gonzalez, who comes from a family of celebrities, was one of the prettiest faces that graced television and the silver screen.

From her stint on "That's Entertainment" in 1987, together with her brother Michael, when she was in her teens, she had her share of the best of the acting industry.

Her debut movie was called "Bloody Mary," a drama-horror flick where she played the lead. She also appeared in some comedy and action movies and was paired with Richard Bonnin, Ricky Davao and Romnick Sarmienta, among others.

Ana Margarita was also one of the co-hosts of German Moreno's "GMA Supershow."

Before show business, she was a commercial model and she endorsed Halo shampoo, Visine eye care, soaps and Cinderella. She was also on magazine covers and was even named "Ms Barbie Doll Philippines."

But while show business was a very exciting industry and acting was fun, they failed to ignite her passion.

But interior design did. So the former movie star went to The American College in London, England and studied interior design. She chose Europe over the US because she thought the former would teach her a deeper appreciation of culture.

The decision paid off, as her travels to Spain, France and other centers of culture honed her sense of design and art.

"Even when I was still doing movies I was already interested in art," she said. "Now, aside from interior design, I also do portraits, landscapes and still life."

Show business was put farther back in the back burner when she married childhood friend Josemari Cuervo. They now have 3-year-old son Enrique and 9-month-old daughter Beatriz.

Three years ago, Ana Margarita tried her hand at another kind of business when she put up The Barnyard, a lifestyle furniture store in Alabang.

"From our main store, we expanded to Fine Things by The Barnyard at Glorietta IV," she says. "Both stores are doing very well."

The Barnyard has attracted quite a following with its elegant pieces of furniture inspired by her travels to Italy, France and other parts of Europe.

"Studying and living in Europe made me fall in love with Old World designs," she says. "While London is still one of my favorite places in the world, it is the beauty of the Mediterranean that truly inspires me."

She uses high-grade pine and hardwood for her furniture collection, and she complements The Barnyard's Mediterranean and rustic designs with a wide range of accessories and wrought iron products.

Her signature touches include the use of tile inlays, earth colors and wrought iron accents. Her best-selling pieces include the ironclad chests, candelabras, four-poster beds and divans.

She has also put up a design-build company called Casa Toscana, which designs residential houses.

"Interior design gives me a sense of fulfillment and confidence that I never experienced before," confesses Ana Margarita. "Art has always been my passion. It is not just the financial aspect of it that inspires me. Appreciating the challenges and successes in achieving my goals really keeps me going."

From operating two stores and designing houses, she plans to develop a new line of fine furniture using a variety of wood and finishes, under AMGC International Inc., her personal corporation.

But she says she has not totally turned her back on show business. She says she could always go back to it, and perhaps do guest appearances here and there.

"I am working on my new furniture line of Fine Things, an upcoming design exhibit and a residential project," she says. "But my most important project is being mother to two great kids and wife to a wonderful man," she adds.

She is also the image model of The Barnyard and Fine Things, and her face looms large from a billboard along the Skyway on the South Luzon Expressway.

INSPIRED by things European, Gonzales-Cuervo (in bed and with son Enrique, inset) designs and creates furniture, accessories such as candleholders, even homes.

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And these are just 3 examples. Three examples among thousands upon thousands of others.

Five thousand scientists who were skeptical or who didn't believe in the supernatural powers of the Miraculous Waters of Lourdes went to Lourdes to study them. And while they could not explain all the miracles they observed, they had to admit these miracles did in fact occur. They even certified that the Water of Lourdes is genuinely miraculous.

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Consequently, it is no surprise the value of this statue and the Miraculous Water in which it is immersed is inestimable. What's more, the source of Lourdes Water is small and the demand for its water is worldwide.

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As president of the Lourdes Research Organization, I was able to bring some statues back with me on my return from Europe. To my knowledge, this is the first time - and perhaps the last— they are available. And quantities are very limited.

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Monique launches album with concert

MONIQUE Wilson, theater, film and TV actress, recording and concert star, artistic director, theater teacher, now MA graduate from Theater Arts from the prestigious Central School of Speech and Drama in London, is set to launch her new album, "Monique Sings Gershwin," with a concert for two nights this month.

The concert will be on Sept. 26 and 27 at the new Republic of Malate theater.

The album, produced by Musicscape, was recorded in Tokyo and is now enjoying success and critical acclaim in Japan as a premiere acoustic jazz recording.

The album and the concert will include the Gershwin classics "Embraceable You," Someone to Watch Over Me," "But Not For Me," "The Man I Love," "Love is

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Merienda muna

"THE AUDIENCE will listen without falling asleep."

RUPERT JACINTO

Sunico set to Rach really hard

Pianist Raul Sunico will perform all four Rachmaninoff concertos in one sitting

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

RAUL Sunico will perform all the four concertos composed by Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943) in a single performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Sept. 14 at 8 p.m.

The concertos are Concerto No.1 in F-Sharp Minor, Op. 1; Concerto No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 18; Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 30; and Concerto No. 4 in G Minor, Op. 40.

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, to be conducted by professor Herminigildo Ranera, will collaborate with him.

Sunico says the performance will be over in about two-and-a-half hours. He admits, though, that the program is going to be taxing, not only for him and the orchestra but also for the audience, which will have to bear the long hours of listening.

To ensure maximum appreciation the playing will not be done chronologically. The program will end with the third concerto, the most technically demanding and exciting, and admired for its rhythmic variety and flexibility.

The first two concertos will be played in consecutive order during the first part, and the last pair, with the fourth being played ahead of the third, in the second part after the interval. This way the audience will listen "without falling asleep," Sunico says.

Working on the second

Sunico had played all of these concertos in the past, except the second, said to be the most popular owing to its themes which had been adapted by Hollywood. He skipped learning it for a practical reason, since almost every pianist in Manila plays it.

But because he loves Rachmaninoff's music, he has to learn it. So, between teaching and administrative work at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, where he is the dean, he has studied and sunk his nimble fingers into the piano keys to master the second concerto.

It has been his long dream, he adds, to play all the concertos in one sitting.

Perhaps people will come to watch this rare concert out of curiosity. But for Sunico, the educational aspect is foremost.

After the concert, he hopes the audience will get to admire the beauty of Rachmaninoff's music as "I had liked and continue to enjoy it."

Asked why he came back to Manila despite a financially rewarding career in New York, he says that when he was sent to Juilliard to take up his Master in Music degree by then First Lady Imelda R. Marcos, as a scholar of the Young Artists Foundation of the Philippines, he always thought of coming back someday, to share what he has learned with the country's aspiring pianists and musicians.

Music dean

Sunico was already done with his doctorate in piano performance at New York University when the offer for UST deanship was made to him by then Dean Erlinda Fule some years ago. After Fule finished her term, the rector of UST, Rev. Tamerlane Lana, OP, offered the Conservatory post to Sunico.

The pianist says he enjoys his work at the UST Conservatory very much, emphasizing that the environment in the school, where camaraderie and teamwork are held in high regard, is very conducive to artistic and intellectual development.

A seasoned concertist who has cut quite a number of recordings, received awards and worked with a number of conductors here and abroad, Sunico expressed satisfaction at professor Ranera, who is also the conductor of the UST Symphony Orchestra.

Ranera, says the dean, "knows his métier and is very dependable." He had worked with Ranera last year with Rachmaninoff's third concerto and the result was "gratifying."

The Sunico Foundation for Arts and Technology, Inc., in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, is the sponsor of the concert. It is a non-profit foundation committed to the development of gifted and exceptionally young Filipinos in the arts and technology through scholarship grants.

Call CCP (8321125, local 1805 and 1806, and 8323878) or the UST Conservatory of Music (7314022).

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TARTS TO WRAP (new course) Sept. 20, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Caramel Tart, Macapuno Tart, Yema Tart, Durian Tart, Cashew Tart, Triple Nut Tart plus a bonus on costing and packaging Tuition Fee - P850

ORIENTAL KITCHEN 3 Sept. 22, Monday, 1:30-5:00 pm Coconut Chicken Soup, Rice with Shrimp and Lemon Grass, Thai Basil Beef, Fried Fish with Pineapple Sauce, Leche Flan with Dayap Tuition Fee - P950

A TASTE OF ITALY Sept. 26, Friday, 1:30-5:00 pm 2 sauces for pasta - Gorgonzola Sauce and Classic Bolognese, 2 Risottos - Risotto with Shrimps and Peas and Risotto Milanese, Caesar Salad Made Easy, Pork Chop Milanese Tuition Fee - P950

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GOODIES TO PACK Sept. 15, Monday, 1:30-5:00 pm Koko Krunch Cookies, Lemon Poppy Seed Muffins, Cocoa Powder Brownies, plus a bonus on costing and packaging ideas for Christmas Tuition Fee - P700

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NO BAKE DESSERTS 3 October 2, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Durian Cheesecake, Fruited Panna Cotta with Chocolate Sauce, Black and White Gelatin Dessert, Refrigerator Cake with Peaches and Cream, Maja Blanca Salad Tuition Fee - P850

SIMBANG GABI October 4, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Royal Bibingka with Salted Eggs and Cottage Cheese, Cassava Bibingka, Baked Open Faced Pandesal with Assorted Toppings, Suman with Mangoes and Homemade Matamis na Bao, Hot Chocolate Drink and Green Tea Shake Tuition Fee - P750

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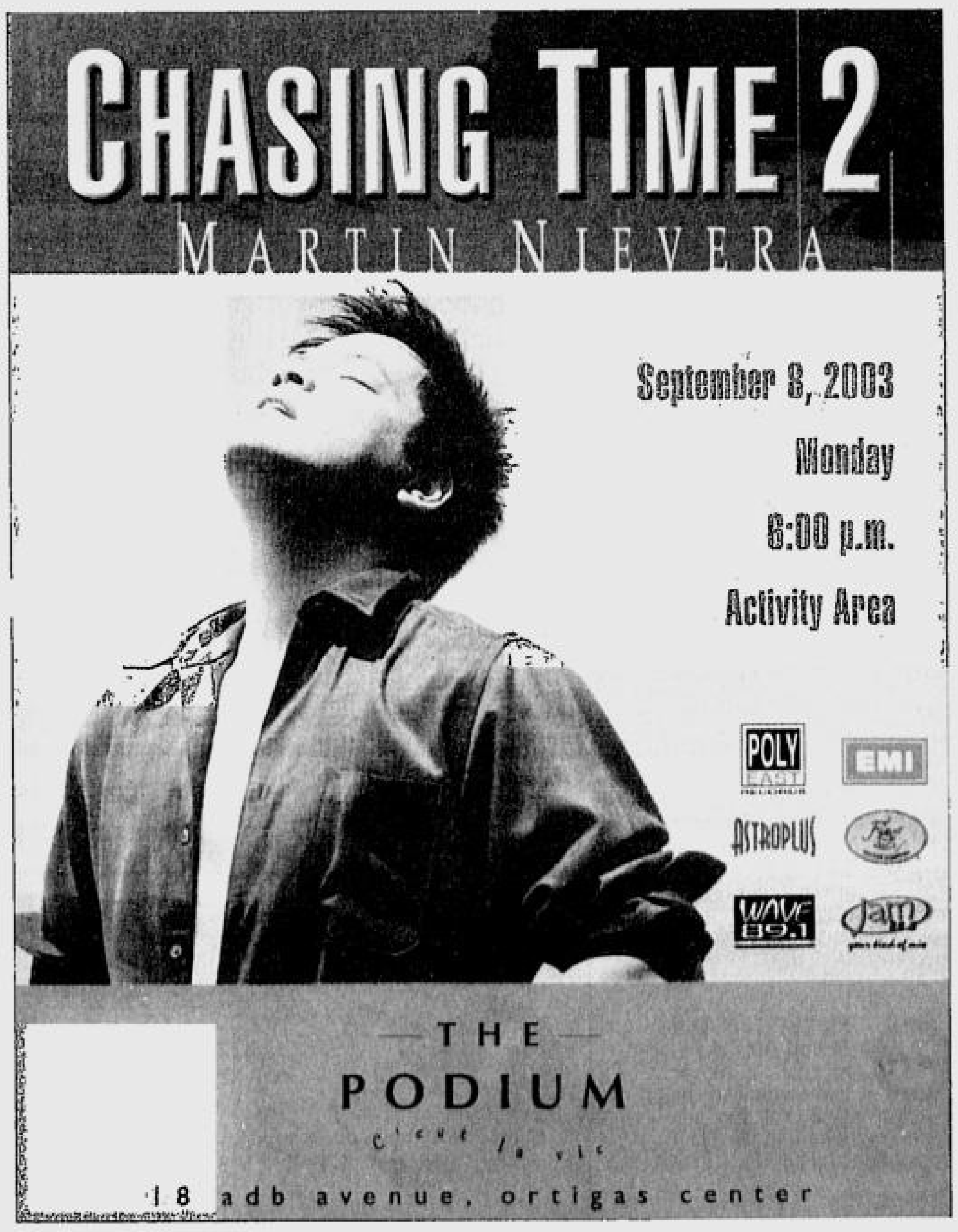
CHASING TIME 2
MARTIN NIEVERA

September 8, 2003
Monday
6:00 p.m.
Activity Area

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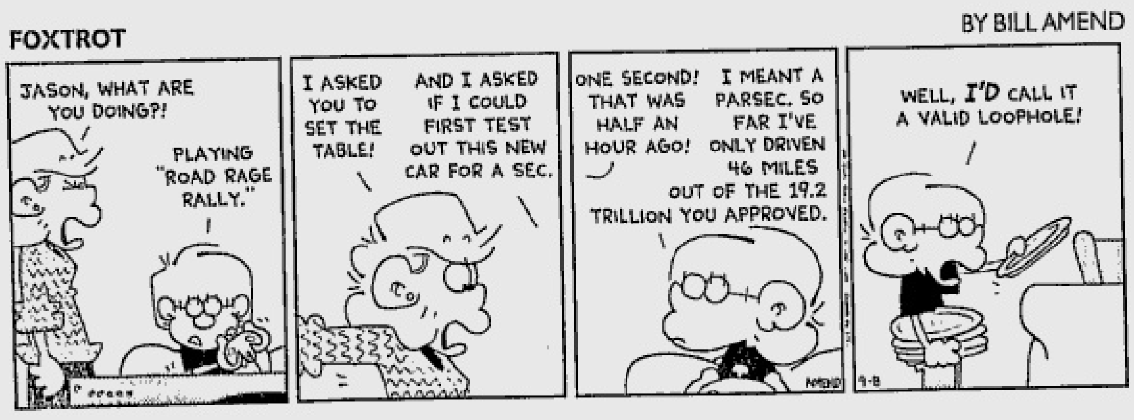
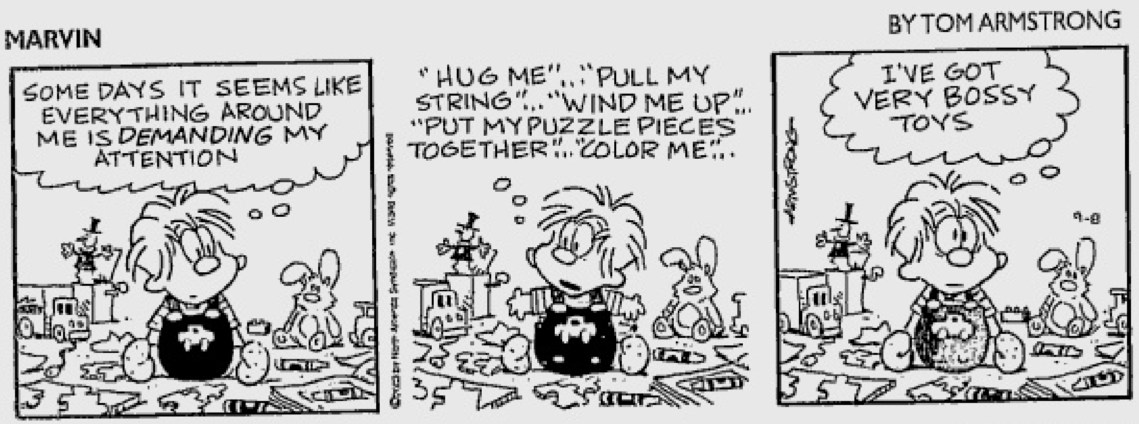
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
PLAYING "ROAD RAGE RALLY."
I ASKED YOU TO SET THE TABLE!
AND I ASKED IF I COULD FIRST TEST OUT THIS NEW CAR FOR A SEC.
ONE SECOND! THAT WAS HALF AN HOUR AGO!
I MEANT A PARSEC. SO FAR I'VE ONLY DRIVEN 46 MILES OUT OF THE 19.2 TRILLION YOU APPROVED.
WELL, I'D CALL IT A VALID LOOPHOLE!

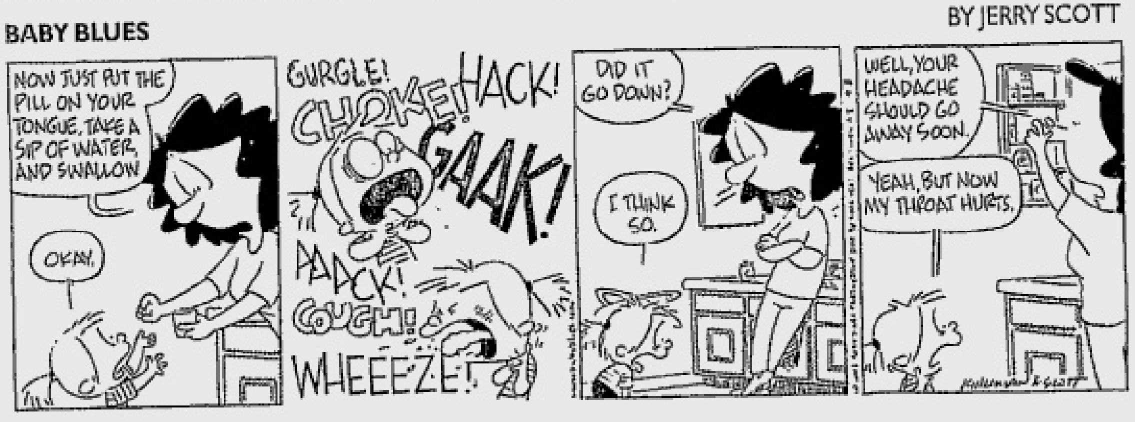
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SOME DAYS IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING AROUND ME IS DEMANDING MY ATTENTION
"HUG ME"..."PULL MY STRING"..."WIND ME UP"..."PUT MY PUZZLE PIECES TOGETHER"..."COLOR ME"..
I'VE GOT VERY BOSSY TOYS

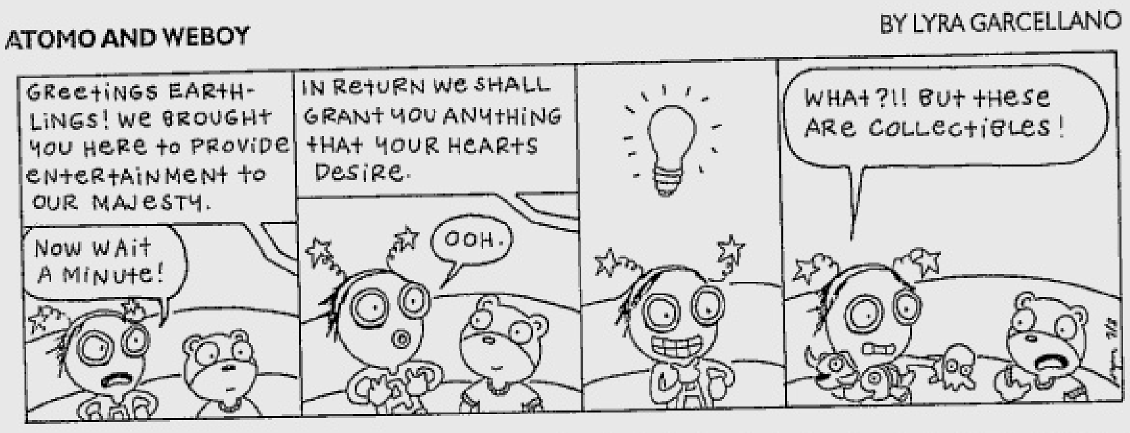
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


NOW JUST PUT THE PILL ON YOUR TONGUE, TAKE A SIP OF WATER, AND SWALLOW
OKAY.
GURGLE! CHOKE! HACK! GAAK! PAACK! COUGH! WHEEEZE!
DID IT GO DOWN?
I THINK SO.
WELL, YOUR HEADACHE SHOULD GO AWAY SOON.
YEAH, BUT NOW MY THROAT HURTS.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Greetings EARTHLINGS! We BROUGHT YOU HERE to PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT to OUR MAJESTY.
NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
IN RETURN WE SHALL GRANT YOU ANYTHING THAT YOUR HEARTS DESIRE.
OOH.
WHAT?!! BUT THESE ARE COLLECTIBLES!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Despite a vivid, sometimes flamboyant personality, you are privately a serious person. Few people truly understand you. You are a natural actor, whether you are paid for it or not. You have strong opinions about life and want to convince others of your point of view. Work hard this year for rewards in 2004-'05. **Birthdate of:** Peter Sellers, actor; David Arquette, actor; Jonathan Taylor Thomas, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Whereas yesterday was a good day to make decisions or shop, today is not. Keep things light. Just do what is necessary. Postpone shopping until tomorrow.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your creative abilities are unusually strong today. Write down your bright ideas. You're thinking out-of-the-box today. Wait until tomorrow to make your decisions, however.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a spacy kind of Monday to start the week off. Don't attempt to do too much. Expect shortages and delays, plus staff members calling in sick.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a poor day to shop for anything expensive. Wait until tomorrow to buy something. However, it's a good day to chat with people, because others are ready to open up to you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Resist the urge to buy anything important today. Wait until tomorrow. However, it's all right to think about all kinds of possibilities that you might pursue. Call it homework.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Start this week off gently with few ambitions. Wait until tomorrow to build energy and make major decisions about things. Bide your time today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You cannot trust new ideas that occur to you today. They might look good now, but wait until tomorrow. Give yourself time to have a sober, second thought about things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Family discussions, especially with a parent, might go in circles today. It's best not to agree to any important commitments. Wait until tomorrow to make final decisions or major purchases.

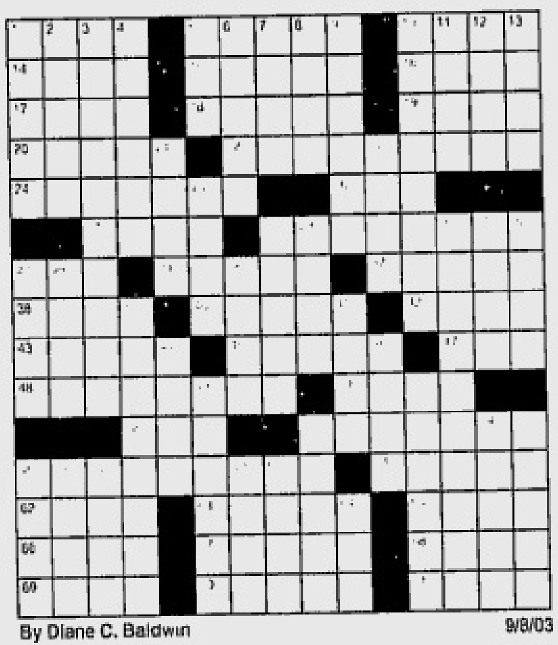
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Double-check travel plans and lists of whatever you have to do. Minor errors are likely today. This is not a particularly productive day. Keep a low profile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Avoid shopping for major items today. You can look, but don't buy. Wait until tomorrow to commit to important decisions or purchases. You'll be glad you did.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is kind of a goofy day. You feel a bit at loose ends. Don't do anything important; however, do allow yourself creative leeway. Unusual ideas occur to you now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Take a long lunch if you can, and leave work early if possible. You don't feel like working very hard today. That's just as it should be.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

9/8/03

ACROSS
- 1 Light knocks
- 5 Proficient
- 10 Prima donna's number
- 14 Woodwind member
- 15 Pablo Casals' instrument
- 16 Find a perch
- 17 Swiss vista
- 18 No-no
- 19 Longest sentence?
- 20 Calyx part
- 22 Kept talking and talking
- 24 Earthquake activity
- 26 Fa-la link
- 27 Put up resistance to
- 28 With great glee
- 33 Fuss
- 35 Small drum
- 37 Ruffled pride
- 38 Warms up the engine
- 40 Pony's comment
- 42 Distinctive atmosphere
- 43 Calvin of fashion
- 45 Up to now
- 47 Auction end?
- 48 York's rank
- 50 Kudrow of "Friends"
- 52 Old Gray Mare
- 53 Tiny spot
- 56 Took eagerly
- 61 Large flightless birds
- 62 New currency
- 63 Involving warships
- 65 Improve a draft
- 66 Pub pints
- 67 Mediterranean island
- 68 Bog down
- 69 Blind feature
- 70 Dough additive
- 71 Wraps up

DOWN
- 1 Drinker's salute
- 2 More competent
- 3 Dropped in for a visit
- 4 Opening word
- 5 Make things happen
- 6 Sweeties
- 7 Exile isle
- 8 Storyline
- 9 Baby's foot
- 10 Praise be!
- 11 Sudden attack
- 12 Lowdown
- 13 Indian Ocean gulf
- 21 Angle of a golf club
- 23 Air show maneuver
- 25 Pitcher Nolan
- 28 Floor support
- 29 Bacchanal
- 30 Just made it
- 31 Bait
- 32 Calendar span
- 33 Boats like Noah's
- 34 Mark for removal
- 36 Noggin
- 39 Street marking
- 41 Lend support
- 44 Tide type
- 46 Stadium level
- 49 Administrative division
- 51 Collude
- 53 Petty quarrels
- 54 Scottish landowner
- 55 Sen. Kefauver
- 56 Briny deeps
- 57 Void's partner?
- 58 Neighborhood
- 59 Throw caution to the wind
- 60 Iris part
- 64 Give permission to

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	G	■	C	A	N	O	E	■	C	O	M	P
H	O	U	R	■	A	L	O	F	T	■	O	V	A	L
A	L	T	A	■	R	E	A	T	A	■	V	E	G	A
G	E	R	M	A	N	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
S	T	Y	M	I	E	■	C	H	E	E	R	S	A	T
■	■	■	■	A	L	S	■	■	■	M	I	L	L	E
S	S	T	S	■	I	A	M	B	[illegible]	■	N	E	E	R
T	E	R	I	■	A	G	L	E	T	■	G	E	N	E
R	E	I	D	■	N	O	V	A	E	■	S	P	E	D
I	N	T	E	R	■	■	■	[illegible]	A	[illegible]	■	■	■	■
P	O	U	L	T	I	C	E	■	D	E	T	A	C	H
P	E	R	I	S	T	A	L	T	I	C	A	L	L	Y
E	V	A	N	■	E	N	S	U	E	■	S	C	U	P
R	I	T	E	■	M	A	I	L	S	■	[illegible]	O	N	E
S	L	E	D	■	S	L	E	E	T	■	O	A	K	S

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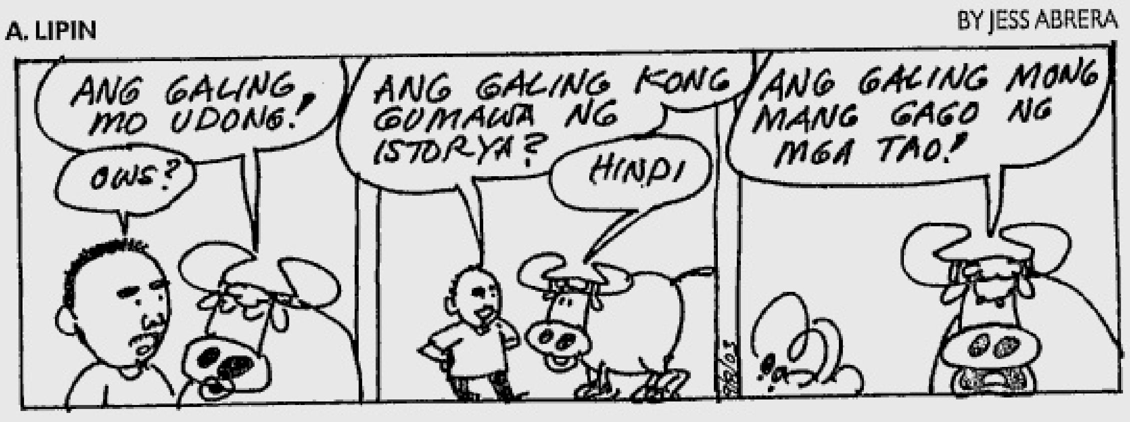
9/8/03

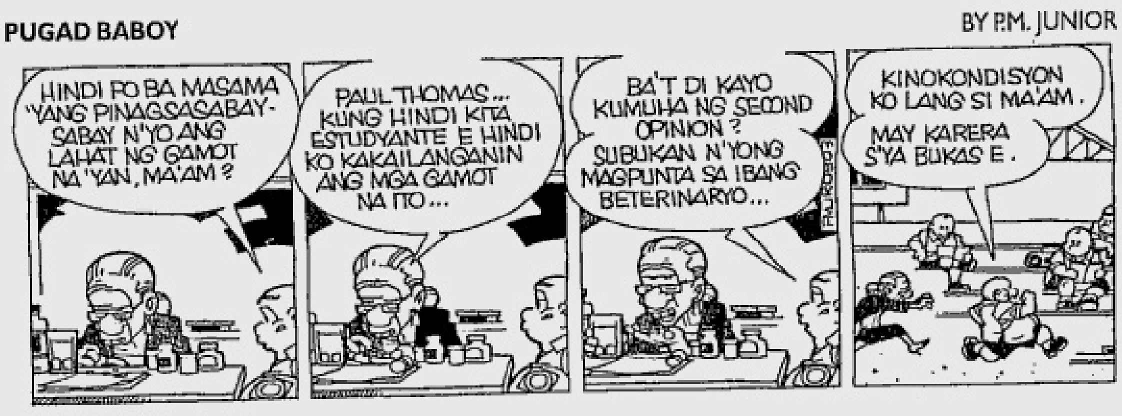
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG GALING MO UDONG!
OWS?
ANG GALING KONG GUMAWA NG ISTORYA?
HINDI
ANG GALING MONG MANG GAGO NG MGA TAO!

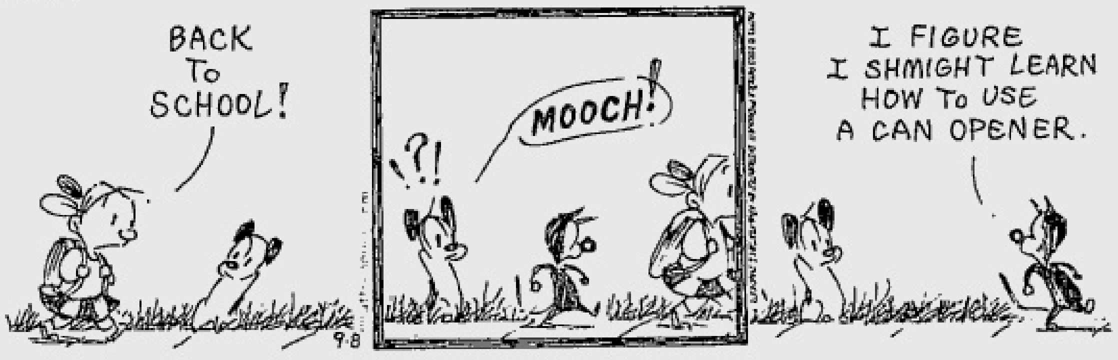
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI PO BA MASAMA 'YANG PINAGSASABAY-SABAY N'YO ANG LAHAT NG GAMOT NA 'YAN, MA'AM?
PAUL THOMAS... KUNG HINDI KITA ESTUDYANTE E HINDI KO KAKAILANGANIN ANG MGA GAMOT NA ITO...
BA'T DI KAYO KUMUHA NG SECOND OPINION? SUBUKAN N'YONG MAGPUNTA SA IBANG BETERINARYO...
KINOKONDISYON KO LANG SI MA'AM.
MAY KARERA S'YA BUKAS E.

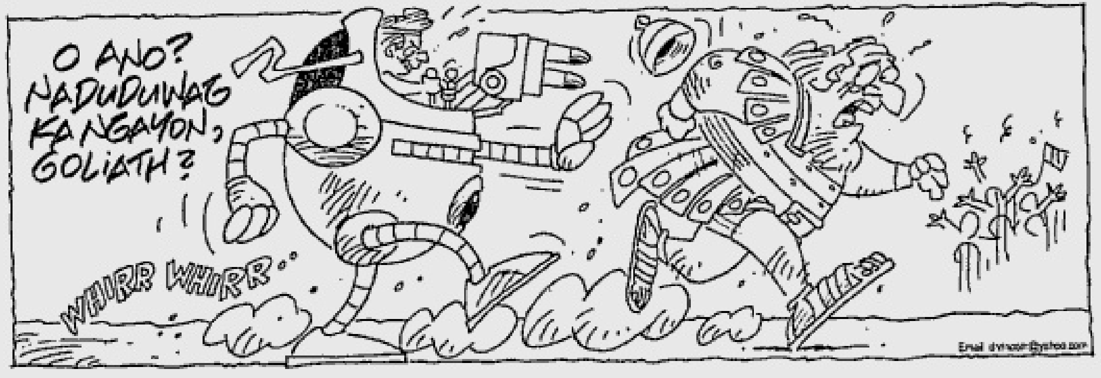
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BACK TO SCHOOL!
!?!
MOOCH!
I FIGURE I SHMIGHT LEARN HOW TO USE A CAN OPENER.

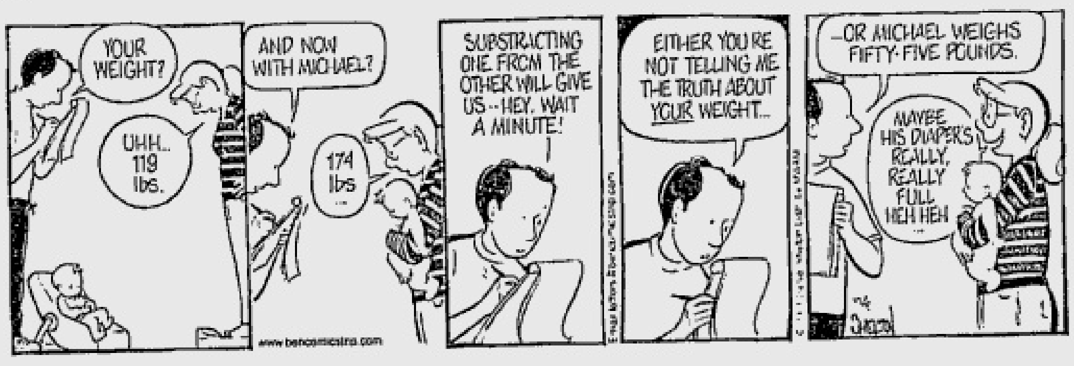
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


O ANO? NADUDUWAG KA NGAYON, GOLIATH?
WHIRR WHIRR

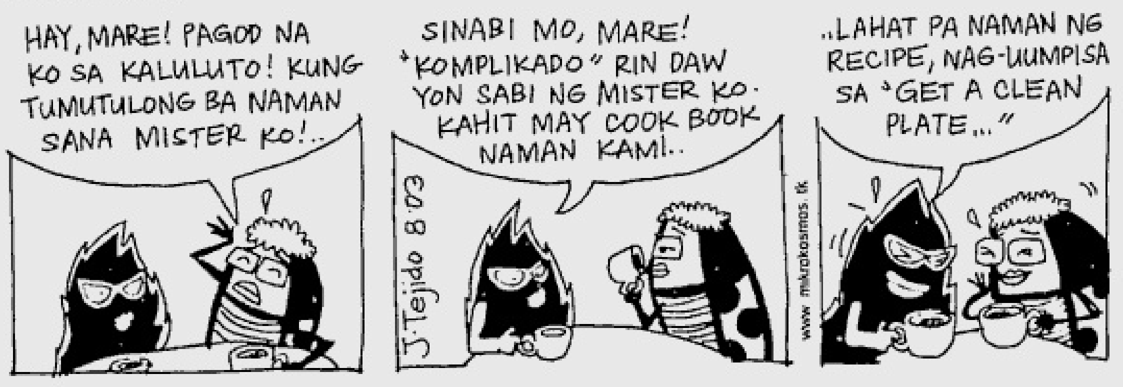
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOUR WEIGHT?
UHH.. 119 lbs.
AND NOW WITH MICHAEL?
174 lbs
SUBSTRACTING ONE FROM THE OTHER WILL GIVE US--HEY. WAIT A MINUTE!
EITHER YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR WEIGHT...
--OR MICHAEL WEIGHS FIFTY-FIVE POUNDS.
MAYBE HIS DIAPER'S REALLY, REALLY FULL HEH HEH

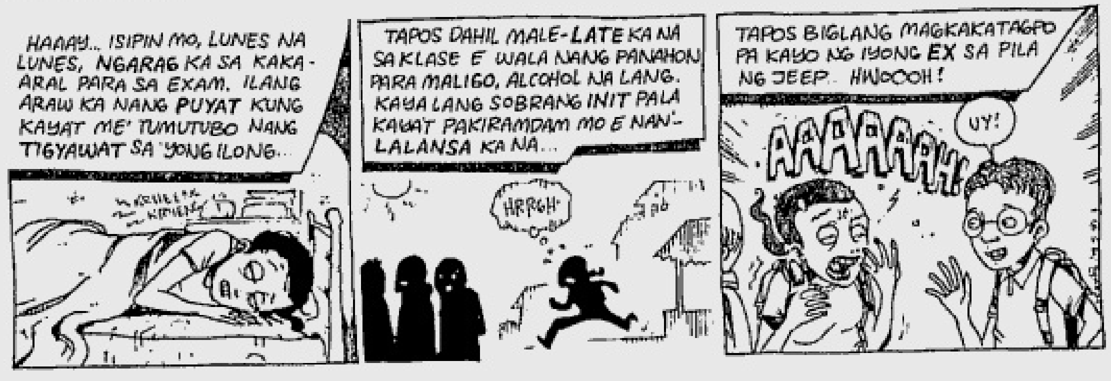
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY, MARE! PAGOD NA KO SA KALULUTO! KUNG TUMUTULONG BA NAMAN SANA MISTER KO!..
SINABI MO, MARE! "KOMPLIKADO" RIN DAW YON SABI NG MISTER KO. KAHIT MAY COOK BOOK NAMAN KAMI..
..LAHAT PA NAMAN NG RECIPE, NAG-UUMPISA SA "GET A CLEAN PLATE..."
J. Tejido 8.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

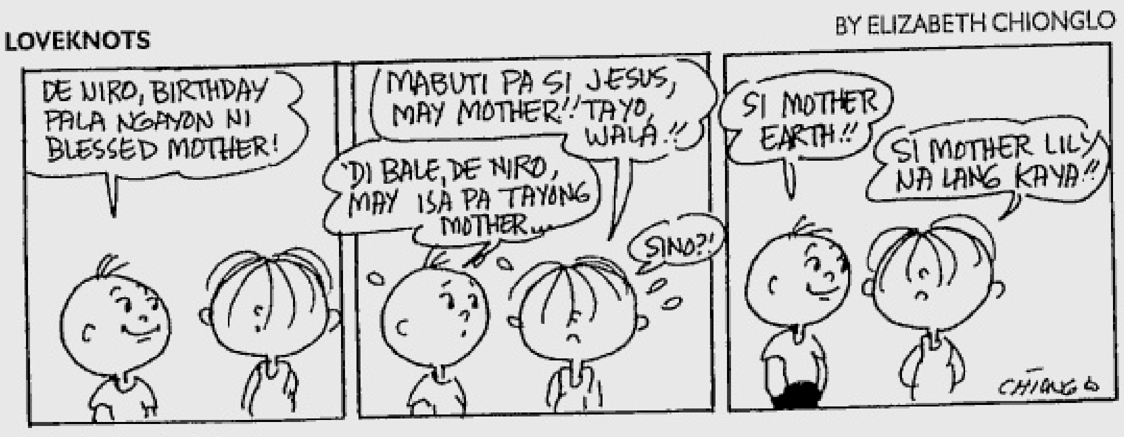
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAAAY... ISIPIN MO, LUNES NA LUNES, NGARAG KA SA KAKA-ARAL PARA SA EXAM. ILANG ARAW KA NANG PUYAT KUNG KAYAT ME' TUMUTUBO NANG TIGYAWAT SA 'YONG ILONG...
TAPOS DAHIL MALE-LATE KA NA SA KLASE E WALA NANG PANAHON PARA MALIGO, ALCOHOL NA LANG. KAYA LANG SOBRANG INIT PALA KAYA'T PAKIRAMDAM MO E NAN-LALANSA KA NA...
HRRGH
TAPOS BIGLANG MAGKAKATAGPO PA KAYO NG IYONG EX SA PILA NG JEEP. HWOOOH!
AAAAAAH
UY!

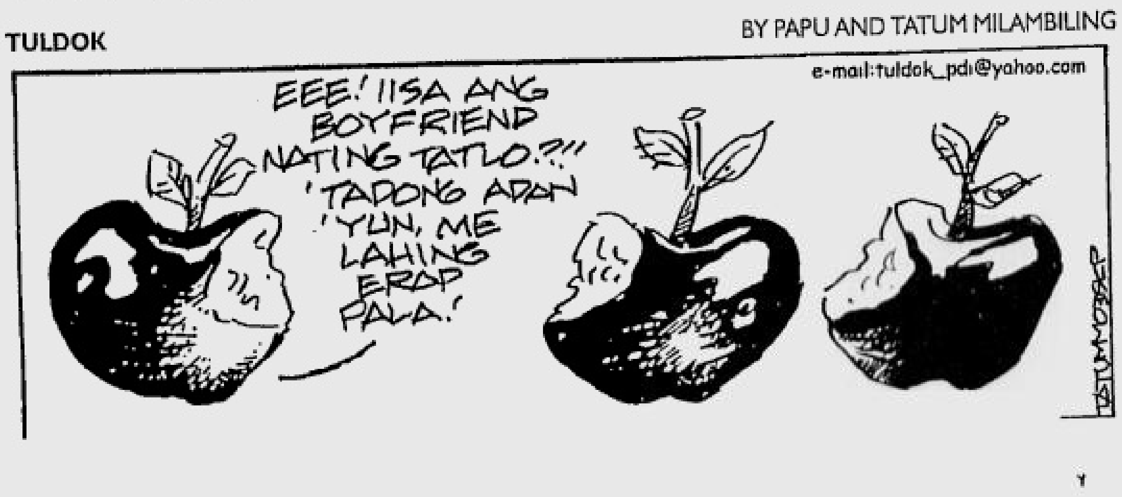
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, BIRTHDAY PALA NGAYON NI BLESSED MOTHER!
MABUTI PA SI JESUS, MAY MOTHER!! TAYO, WALA!!
'DI BALE, DE NIRO, MAY ISA PA TAYONG MOTHER...
SINO?!
SI MOTHER EARTH!!
SI MOTHER LILY NA LANG KAYA?!!
CHIONG

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


e-mail:tuldok_pdi@yahoo.com
EEE! IISA ANG BOYFRIEND NATING TATLO?!! 'TADONG ADAN 'YUN, ME LAHING ERAP PALA!
TATUM

Brothers and strangers

This year's awardee for best children's book shows that love and fraternity can exist even between those with no blood ties

"Sandosenang Kuya" (A Dozen Brothers)
By Russell Molina
Illustrations by Herbert Fucio
English text by Allan Popa
Adarna House, Inc., 2003

By Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz
Contributor

REVIEW

A MAJOR highlight of each year's celebration of the National Children's Book Day spearheaded by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) is the launch of the grand prize winners of the Salanga Writers' Prize and the 2003 Grand Prize Winner of the Alcala Illustrators' Prize at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Both prizes are named to honor the memory of two respected PBBY members, the late writer Alfredo Navarro Salanga and cartoonist Larry Alcala.

Selected by judges Emily Abrera, Manolo Silayan and Karina Bolasco as this year's best over a crop of more than 50 entries, "Sandosenang Kuya" (A Dozen Brothers) by Russell Molina catches the reader's attention with its polysyllabic first line, "*Anobatongmgabatangitoo*!" ("You children are a handful!")

The narrator, the youngest of them all, describes his big brothers, all in various shapes and appearances, and their shared times, all playing around the number "12"—a dozen smiles, a dozen flying slippers at *tumbang preso*, a dozen pairs of helping hands.

Molina makes use of wonderful details in a narration that reads like a prose poem because of the balanced lyrical structure of his sentences: "A dozen voices sing along to songs on the radio (though no one ever gets the notes right)." And at times when the narrator is lonely, "a dozen stories cheer me up."

It is not until the middle of the story that the reader realizes this is all about orphans and the homeless in a children's shelter. Before this, the only hint we have is that the dozen brothers all look different, but are all "Kuya" to the narrator.

It is not a cloyingly sentimental account that preaches to do-gooders, and the author and the illustrators are to be commended for that. Instead, the story emphasizes that love and true fraternity can exist even between those with no blood ties.

The dozen motif is again played with at the end, when one big brother sets off in search of his own life outside the shelter, and is warmly sent off by the rest with a dozen mangoes, a dozen pictures and happy memories.

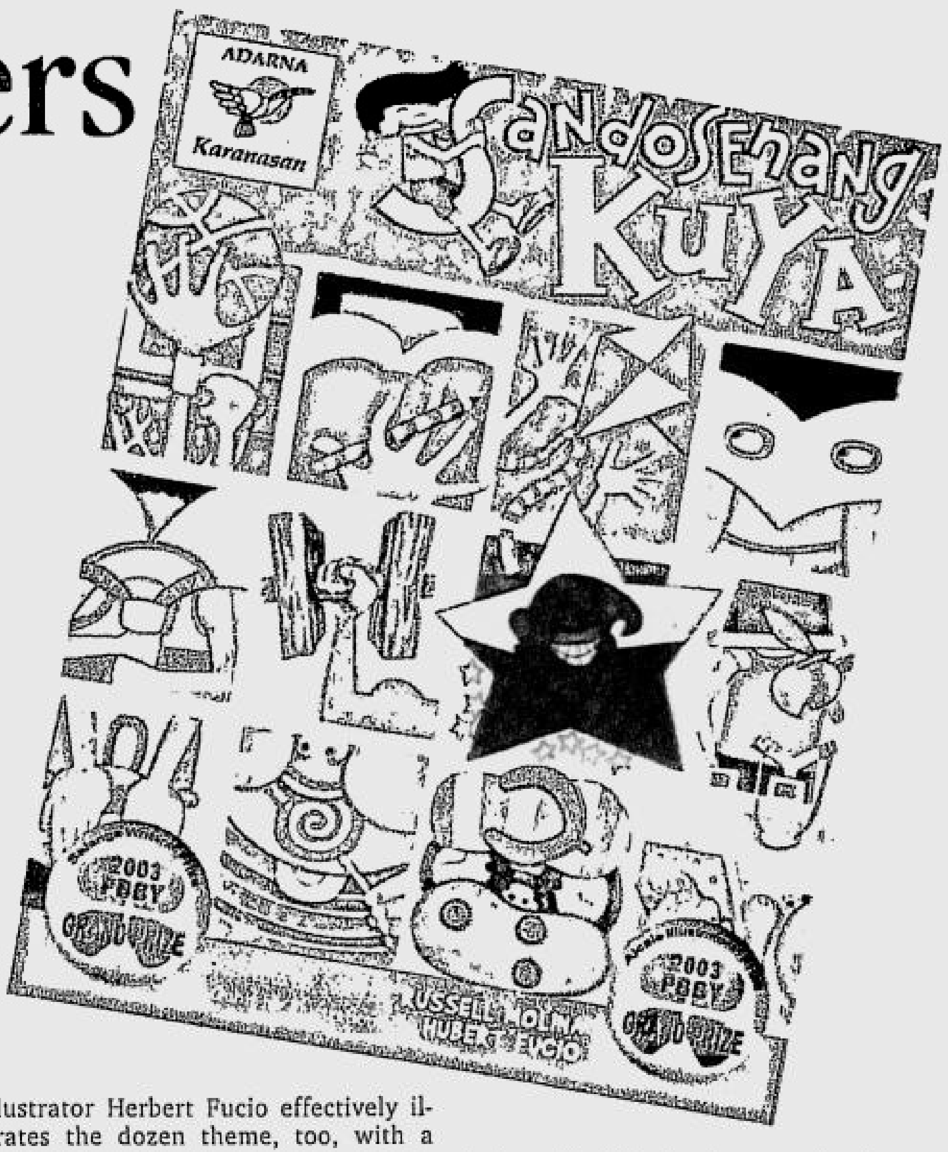
"We're all sure that Kuya won't ever forget us. He will never forget our happy memories which are, definitely, more than a dozen."

We again see the problem of translating beautiful Filipino into English. Consider the title alone. The English equivalent for *kuya* is "elder brother," which will never do for a catchy title.

Some lines in the English text jar in their syntax. But without the translation, the book would have a limited reach.

Perhaps we should pay closer care to the English text, unless it is to prove once again that English cannot capture the nuances of Filipino or any other language—which we already know, anyway.

It's just that a touching story such as this requires impeccable translation to do it justice.



Illustrator Herbert Fucio effectively illustrates the dozen theme, too, with a dozen thong slippers, a dozen hands, although because of printing constraints, the illustrations are not as vivid as one would like them to be.

Meanwhile, read the story out loud to children in whatever medium you are comfortable with. Or, better yet, read both texts in separate readings, as they will delight each time.

Molina works in an advertising agency and dabbles in writing and illustrating children's stories. Evidence of his talent in both media is his having won also the top prize for the 2002 PBBY Illustrators' Prize.

This is Fucio's first children's book. He is a UP Fine Arts graduate and does art work for the UP Press.

Call 3723548 or e-mail adarnahouse @adarna.com.ph.

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People. E-mail her at nenisrc@hotmail.com

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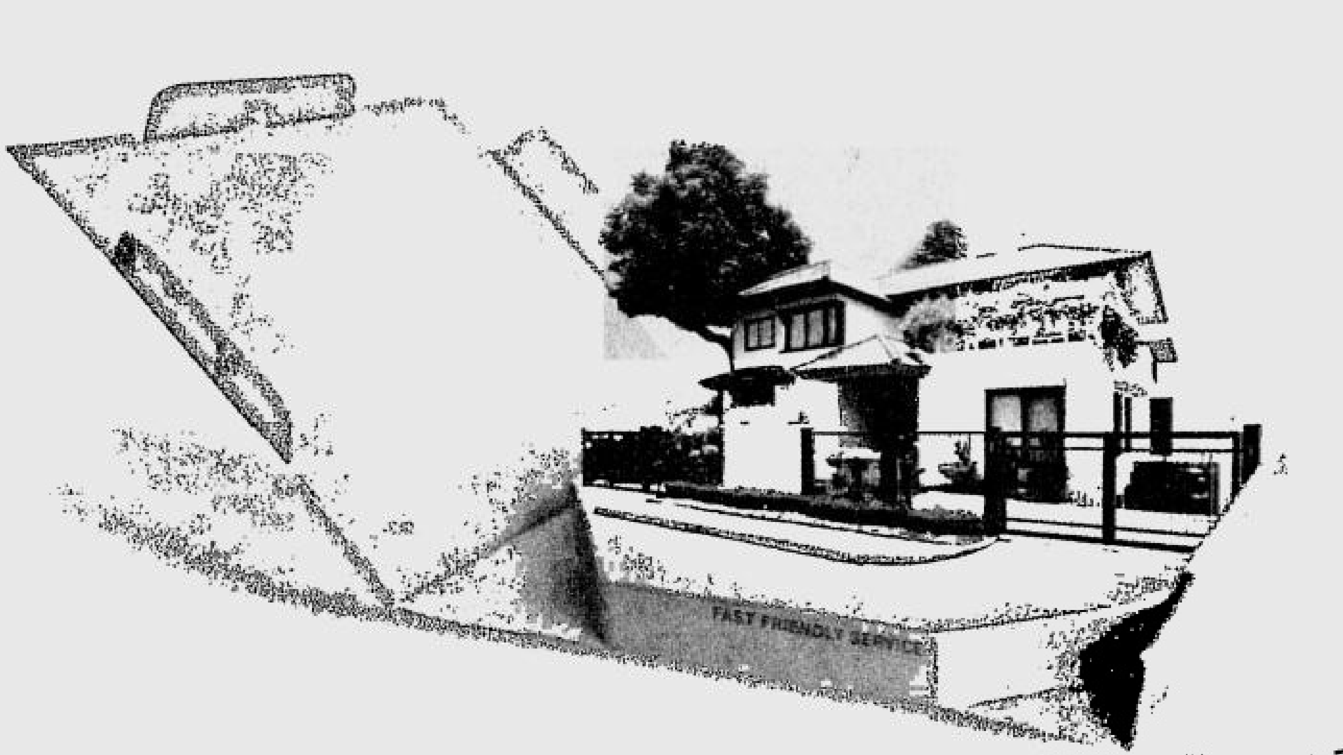

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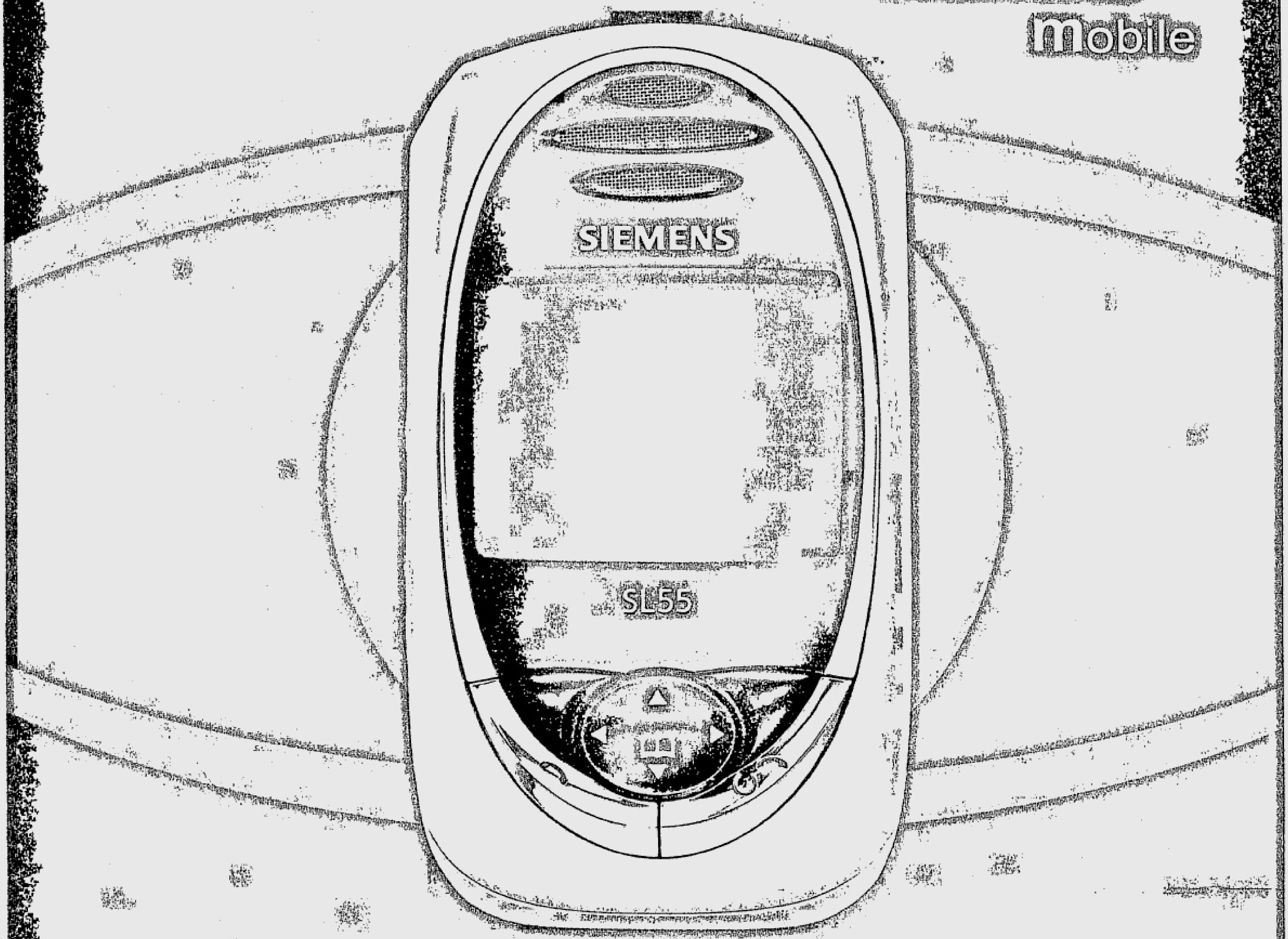
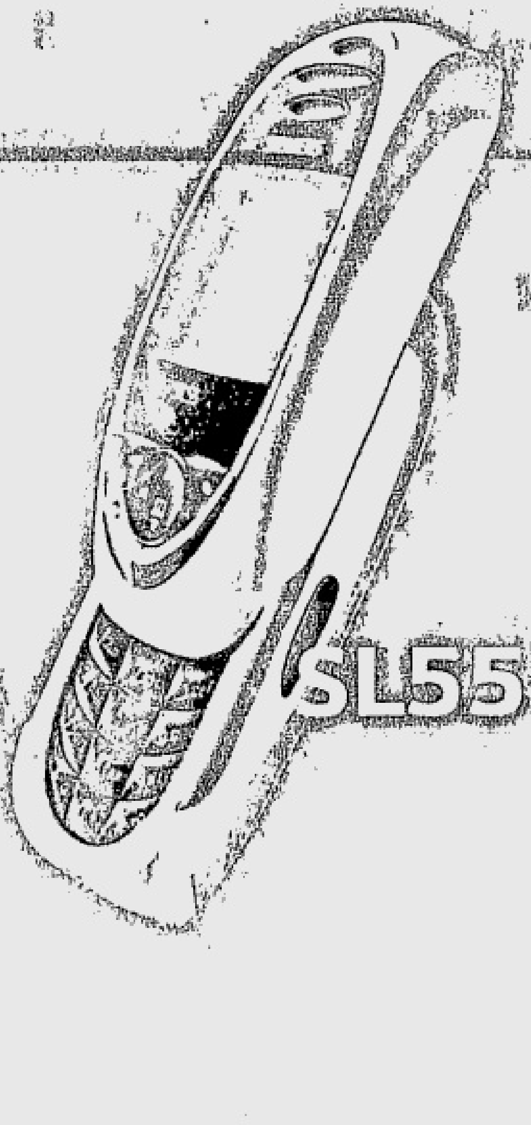


Designed for desire



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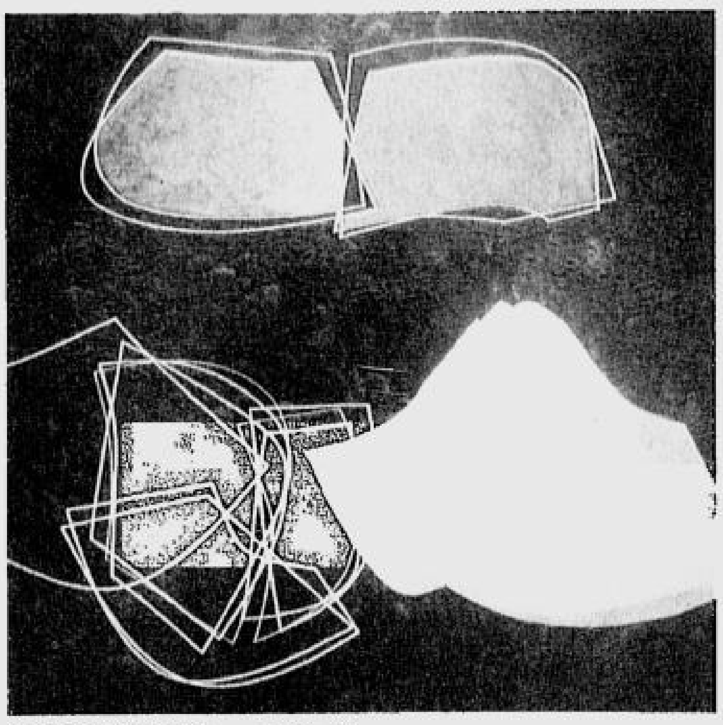
The translucent genius *of* Olazo



"DIAPHANOUS/Permutation" 4

By Constantino C. Tejero

ROMULO Olazo should be ripe for a retrospective.

One of the most important living Filipino artists, the 69-year-old painter-printmaker has been a vanguard of modernism since he studied fine arts under Victorio Edades and Diosdado Lorenzo at the University of Santo Tomas.

He has received most of the major awards and distinctions, except being declared National Artist. And yet a new generation of art lovers has not seen his watercolors, mixed-media pieces, nudes, landscapes, sculptures.

The casual gallery-goer is in for more surprises from the man with his exhibit "Translucencies: Still Lifes in Oil," showing until Sept. 14 in Galeria Duemila at the Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. 4, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

These seven wondrous pieces in oil and acrylic on canvas are the latest from Olazo's famous "Diaphanous" series, those paintings depicting translucent multilayered shapes he says he accidentally discovered while working on collograph (printmaking technique) in the early 1970s.

THE TRANSLUCENT/E3

A vanguard of modernism, he is one of the most important living Filipino artists

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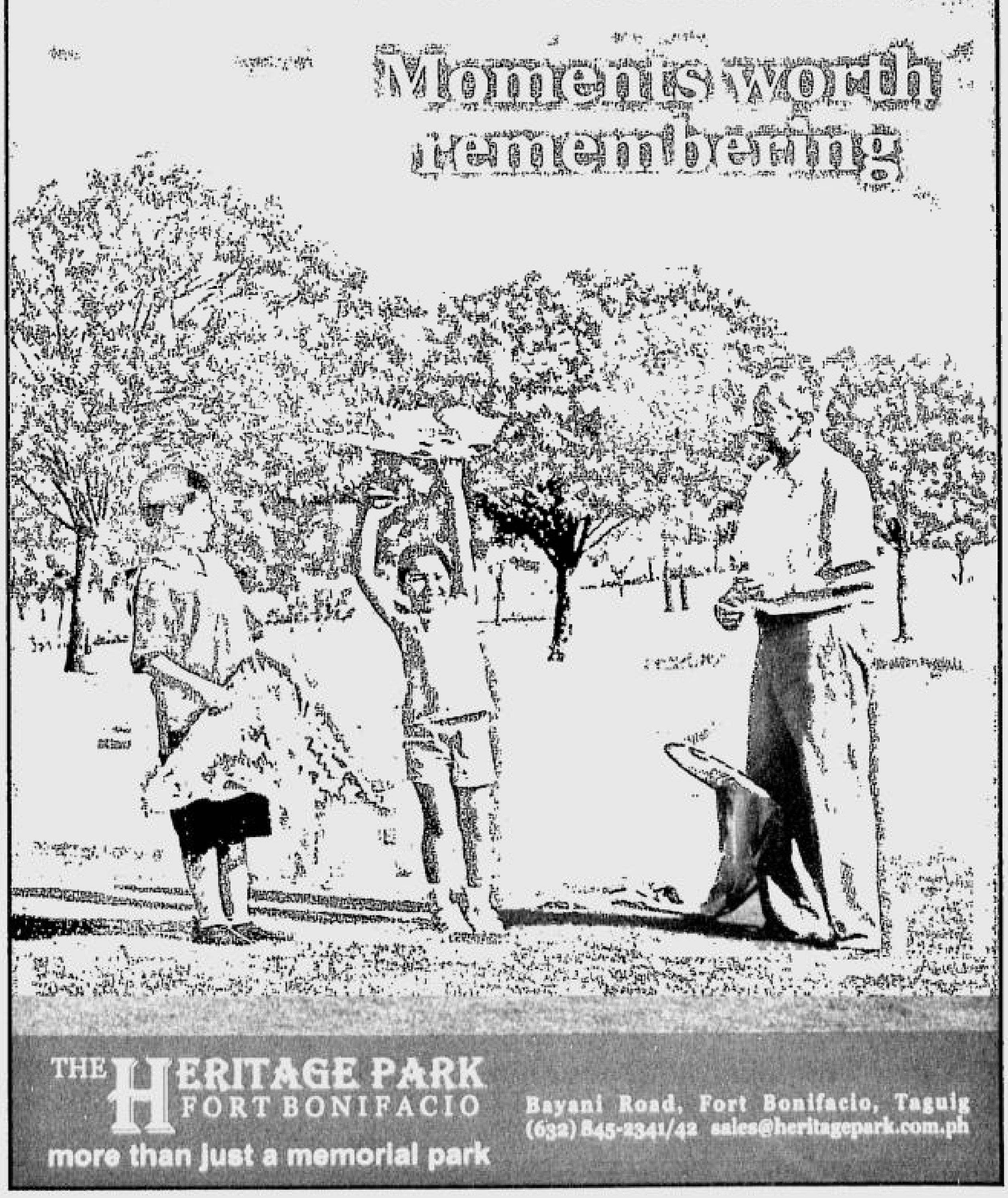

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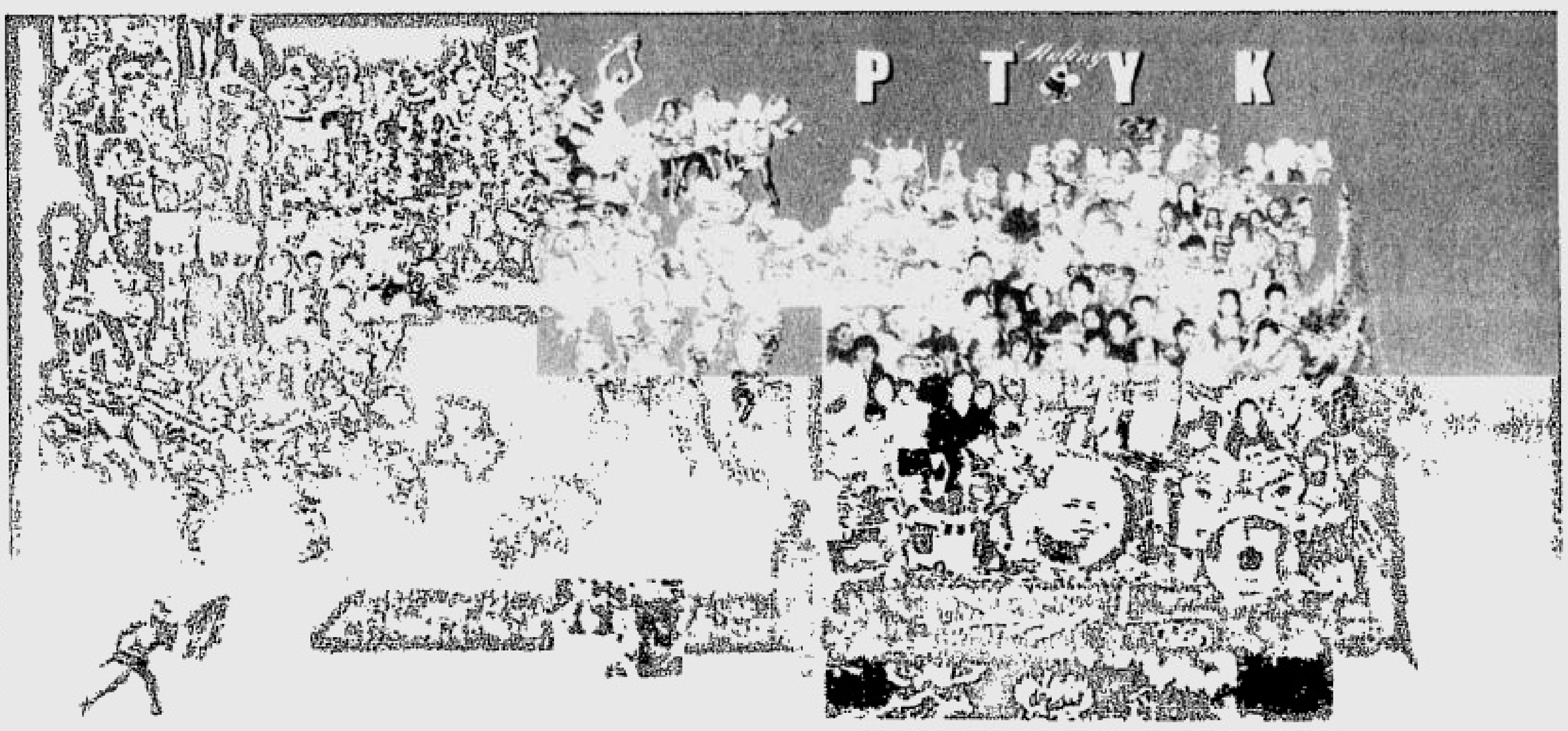
Full moon trilogy

By Sylvia Mayuga
Contributor



ARTWORK by Nonoy Marcelo

EARS were wagging at that new televised clash between cultures when the same heavenly impresario who turned "Magno Rubio" into a moment of truth next unfolded a display of the arts in trilogy, full moon at the center: Manuel Ocampo and Romeo Lee's jampacked multi-media performance hilariously deconstructing anything and everything in sight; the launching of a new book of world poetry handpicked by seven of our finest living Filipino poets; and the opening of an exhibit by the ever-inventive artist Briccio Santos.

The first two in the Quezon City branch, the third in the Makati branch, of the new and happening Mag:net Gallery, it was the best of disaster management—offering healing draughts of the enduring in a time of coup d'etat, stringing transcendent moments for everyone ready to defy hungry ghosts and more heavy rain on a drowning city.

Distance and traffic confined me to Briccio's opening in Makati but what joy! His personal journey had arrived at "Telos"—purpose, a new plateau of power, beauty and compassion.

Living journey

Briccio has followed his bliss for decades—in Germany with photography; New York with psychology; Baguio with film, painting, sculpture and landscaping; Russia with "Cavaliers of Wind," a film that defied the steepest of odds to capture the collapse of the communist system through the medium of a dark night in his own romantic soul; and then in Paris, resettling into the Old World's "order and permanence" to gradually montage his life back to harmony with the laughing muse he once thought to leave behind.

Ten years later, with acrylic on canvas, newspaper cutouts, marbles and pebbles from the streets of Paris, he was telling the story of how and why he, and every artist, does what he/she does in a never-ending voyage deeper and deeper into Self.

What is on view in Mag:net's sliver of gilt-edged Makati real estate is not just another series of abstract canvases by a brilliant Filipino artist.

It is a jigsaw-puzzle map tracing a living journey with energy, candor and subtlety in black, whites, grays and reds.

Rock Drilon, magnetic curator, whispered why he risked overcrowding limited wall space, "The canvases are large, 52 in all, but to edit them would have been censorship. I realized—they are really the frames of a film that has to be seen whole."

In Briccio's ceaseless multi-media fashion then, facing 52 canvases was a TV screen running a film of daily scenes in the artist's adopted Paris, captured with a handheld digital camera and edited by poetic sensibility with a little help from the film lab. Done for an NCCA film festival which honored Briccio as filmmaker last year, they were diary notes of his way of seeing.

Nouvelle Vague cresting, curving and rising to a spiral, he is now completing a book "extending photography into sculpture with poetry" while nourishing a film script on the reality of the largest gorgon on-the road to a new turning for our country—the lives of squatters "home along da riles." How could one ever have doubted art as a medium for wholeness?

BRICCIO Santos

Rich moment

So rich is this moment that elsewhere in the city, Howie Severino, Egay Navarro and Rica Concepcion are meanwhile gripped in the magical process of editing decades of raw film footage into a documentary on the life and art of the late (but always ahead) shaman/artist Robert Villanueva.

Krip Yuson, editor of "7 ½ x 10," a world-class book of poetry, is in turn deep in a new book on Santi Bose. Santi died two months after Nonoy Marcelo, so that book follows "Huling Ptyk," a book recording Nonoy's tracks in time that Pandy Aviado and I are collaborating on with his eldest son Dario.

Memory speaks: These works-in-progress converge in root and energy in the Cordillera of the late '70s and the '80s, in a movement that, among other rich quests, questioned what art and artists could and had to do about the deep violation of martial law.

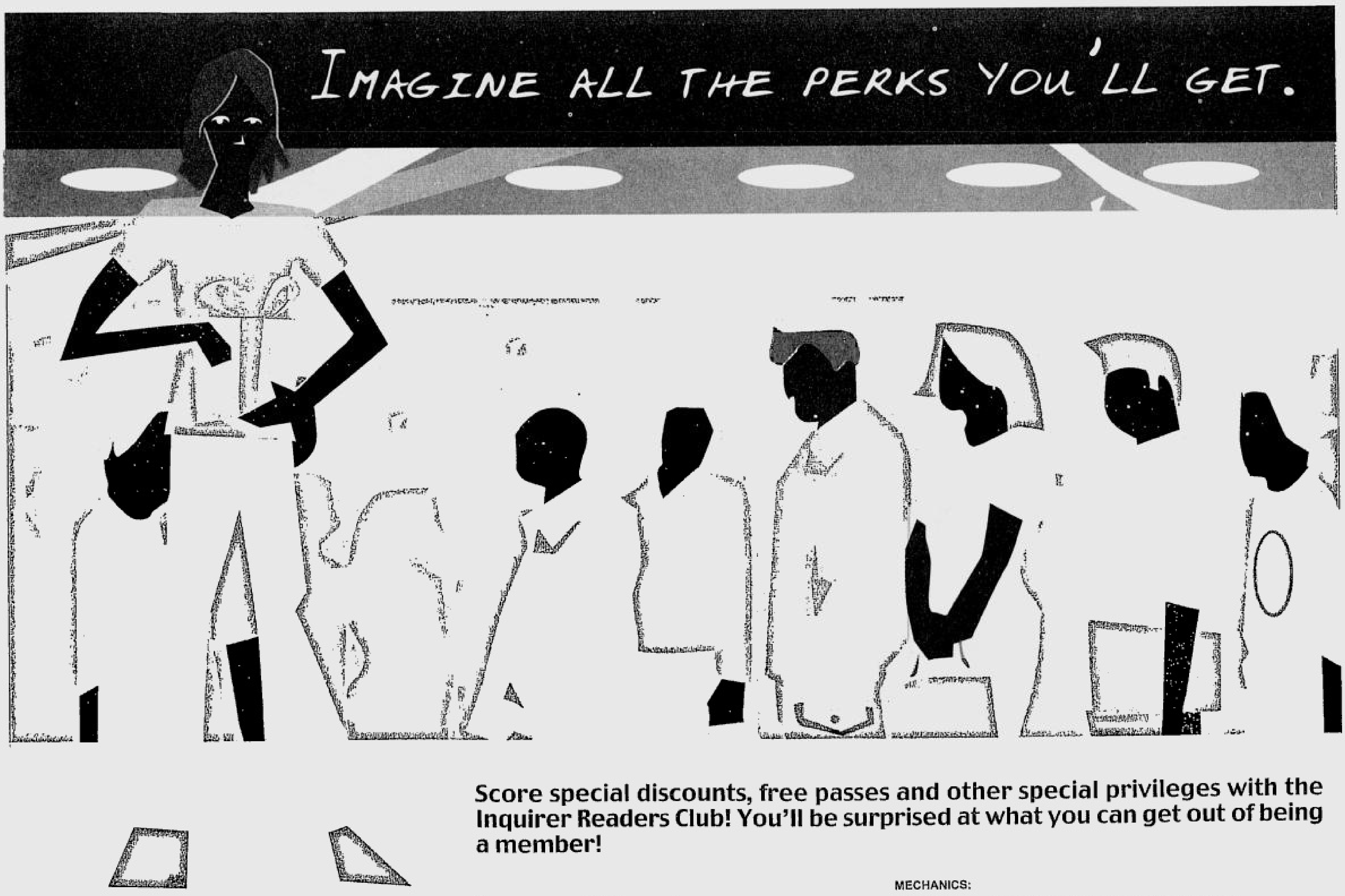
From mountains of vision, we had since traveled the long and winding road together and separately—on paths strewn with answers, converging now with a new generation of vision-trekkers and shape-shifters, incredulous at how long it is taking our countrymen to see that answers are already in our hands.

That some of us have recently joined earlier generations on that bend between time and eternity has upped the ante for a collective journey.

In strange twitches of "coincidence," it feels as though Robert, Nonoy and Santi (not to forget Pepito Bosch, everyone's generous companion to William Blake's palace of wisdom) are now in vigorous collaboration with the scribes of our communal story.

Openings, launchings, performances, film showings have become doors to our past, present and future in a single continuum, the tightest spaces turning into gateways of vision—as bits and pieces in a rain of pain and beauty, laughter and challenge come together in an epic of possible renewal for a deserving people.

If only politicians and militarists, bankers and bureaucrats would taste and truly know how sweet it is—to sleep with art's longing, and waking, share its dream in song.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The translucent genius *of* Olazo

From page E1

The three pieces comprising the series "Still Lifes (Diaphanous)" seem like film negative exposures or X-ray images, while the four pieces simply titled "Diaphanous/Permutation" look like products of stroboscopic photography.

Subtle images

The subtle images verge between figuration and abstraction. In "Kasuy," the bluish fruits float on a blue void like butterflies, petals or paper cutouts.

In "Anthuriums" 1-2, the viewer can make out the white, blue and red heart-shaped bracts and rodlike spikes of the plant.

He recalls being inspired into creating the floral still lifes after a visit to a flower farm in Tagaytay. Upon seeing the white anthuriums, he exclaimed to himself, "*Parang* painting *ko 'to, a.*"

The glowing shapes in "Diaphanous/Permutation" 1-4, rendered in neon hues of yellow-green, yellow-orange, red and fuchsia and repeated in outlines of white, are described by the artist as "*parang* nudes."

He explains he calls these forms "permutation" because they look "*parang* repetition of form, *pinagpatong-patong na* shapes." This multilayering, more than the coloration, is expressive of states of feeling and nuances of emotion.

But it is the coloration that's actually what's surprising to the casual viewer. Because here Olazo uses hot colors, which is a departure from his signature monochromes of black and white, brown and gray, muted blue and green.

"It's not really a departure," he says. "*Ganyan ang ginagawa ko nu'ng araw. Ngayon lang konti ang* color."

Ghostly as are these luminous forms, they appear to posses volume in space, a sense of tri-dimensionality, almost tactile.

Strenuous work

Before he became well-known for this ethereal abstraction, Olazo was doing representational art, particularly nudes and landscapes, even Mother and Child. He stopped doing it some 10 years ago because, he says, he no longer had companions to draw with.

"We used to draw as a group," he explains. "*Kailangan may kasama, dahil masaya. Malungkot kung nag-iisa. Pero babalik ako du'n. Hindi puwedeng hindi.*"

He also stopped doing print after he had a heart bypass operation two years ago. Even if he was only doing an edition of 10 for each piece, it was still strenuous work.

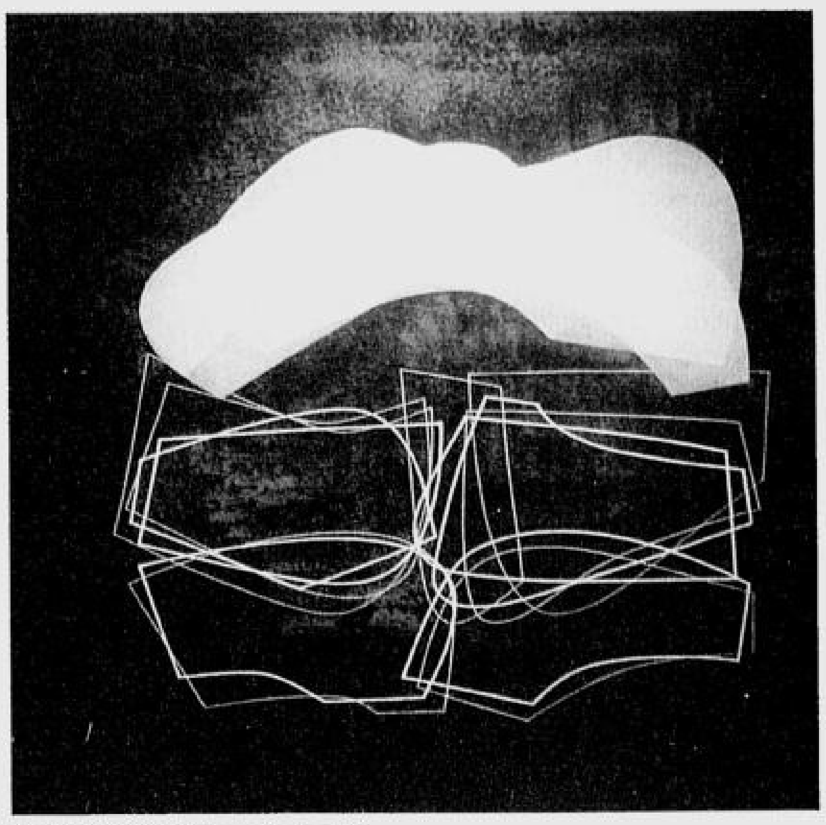
"*Masarap gawin ang* print *pero nakakatamad,*" he laughs.

Oil, he says, is the medium he likes best, as it is "*matagal matuyo, madaling masahin,* it can be easily manipulated."

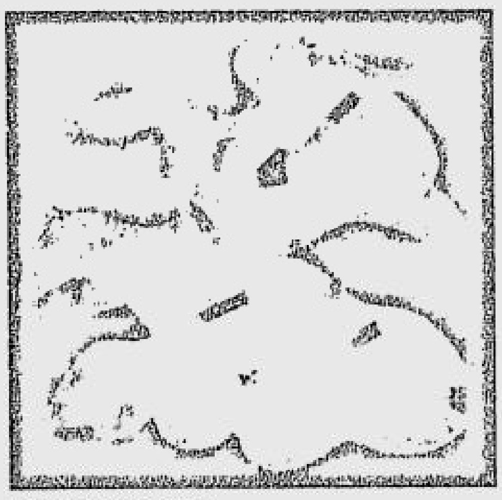
He counts among his favorite artists Fernando Zobel, Arturo Luz, Picasso, Rembrandt. Of younger artists, the work of Pardo de Leon appeals to him.

He considers Zobel the most influential on his art, though, as can be seen in the similarities between his "Diaphanous" series and Zobel's studies for "Saeta."

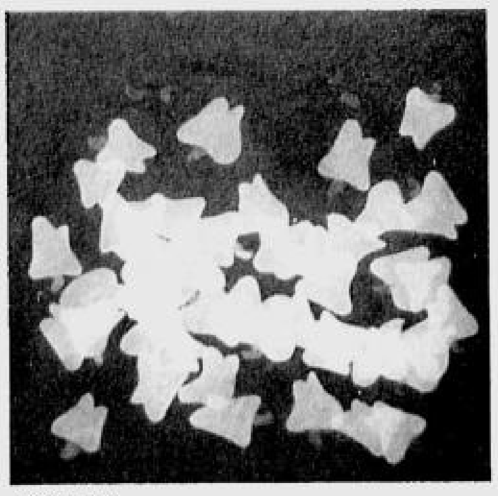
This is Olazo's 30th exhibit, and his first since 1999. There are only seven pieces here, and this despite his reputation for being prolific. Clearly, a retrospective is in order.



"DIAPHANOUS/Permutation" 3



"ANTHURIUMS" 2



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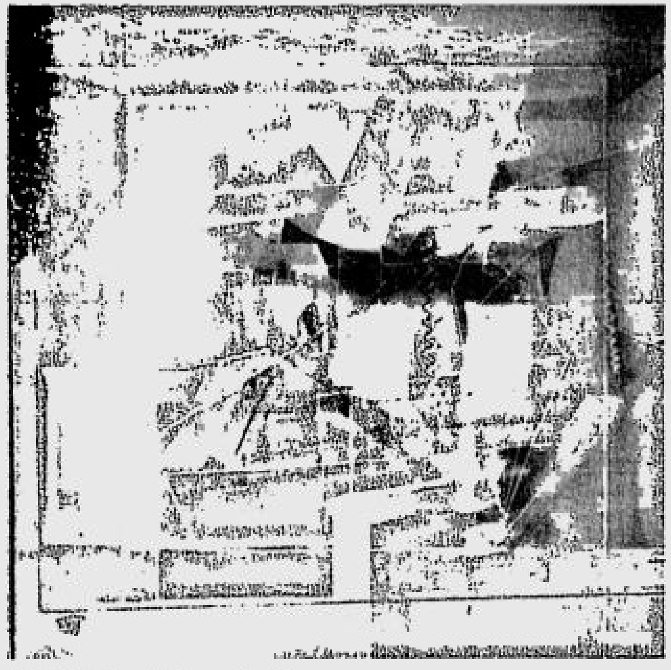


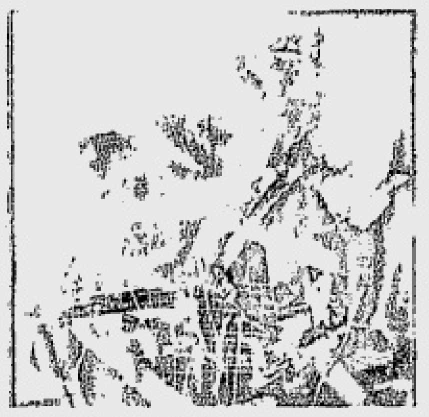
"FESTIVAL of Mountains"

Popoy Cusi show opens new gallery

RAFAEL "Popoy" Cusi will launch the newly opened Ricco-Renzo Galleries with a rare solo exhibit of his paintings.

The only Filipino awarded with the Premio Ambiente 2001 by Centro Estudi Europeo Ambiente Arte Associazione in Milan, Italy, Cusi continues to surprise and amaze his viewers with his watercolors completely bereft of inhibition and brimming with great love for his art.

"Shangi, A Celebration" will open on Sept. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the the LRI Business Plaza, 210 N.Garcia St. (formerly Reposo), Bel-Air II, Makati City. Call 8982542 to 45 or e-mail ricco_renzo@yahoo.com.



"SHANGI'S Season"

Learning the laws of art

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

ABSTRACT art is a virtual sea of infinity whose sublime power continually lures artists to its bosom. It has often proved irresistible to those starting to savor the sheer exuberance of color, the redemptive joy of visualizing time and space within the confines of the canvas, and the creative act itself.

For Bien (Bienvenido) Benitez, a lawyer-turned-painter, the decision to embrace abstraction as a way of art came with spontaneous sparks of beguiling wonder. He has spent a large part of his professional life in the practice of civil and corporate law.

Art struck him as a less demanding taskmaster than law. He came to realize, once he was hooked, that he was subdued by a muse of overpowering allure.

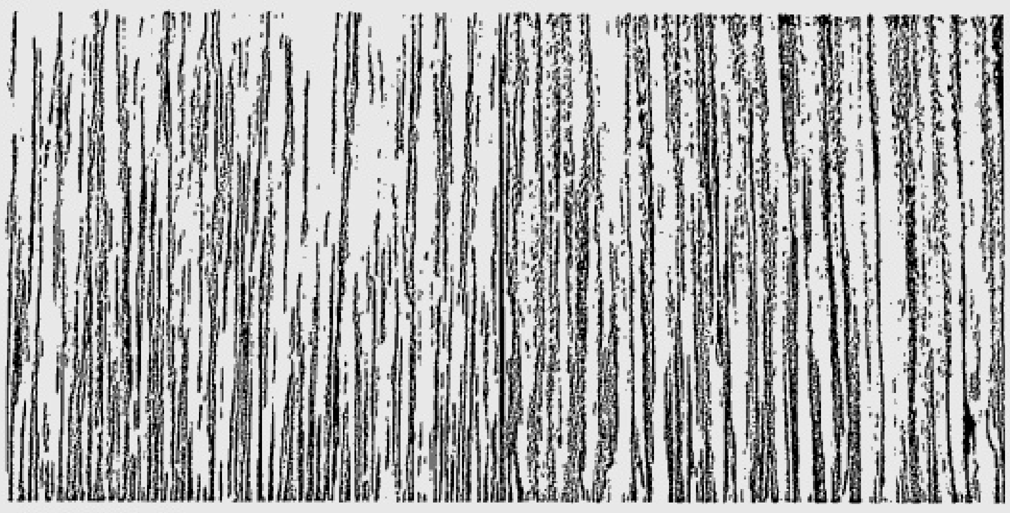
Benitez, who comes from a venerable family of lawyers and educators, pursued his passion like a lover in search of his proverbial muse.

In the last few years, since the death of his long-widowed mother, he has had more time to pursue his interest and finally engage in art making. He sought a mentor to coach him and, when the lessons were over, set free the artistic spirit long hibernating in his system.

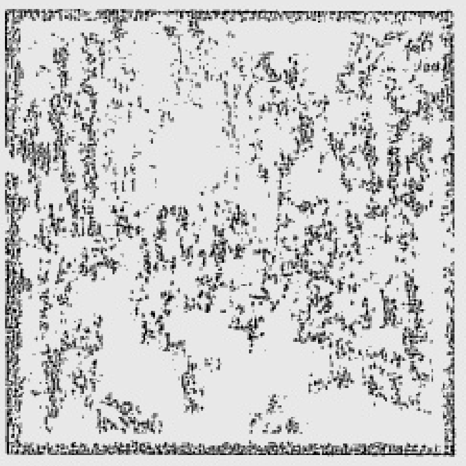
Solid body of work

After a year spent in his studio, toiling days and nights on end, Benitez has come up with a solid body of work in the abstract genre.

The eponymous show at the Renaissance Gallery (until Sept. 10), a tribute to his late mother, Justice Regina Ordoñez-Benitez, bears all the trademarks of Abstract Expressionism.



"BIANCA Red"



"SUMMER Solstice"

The pieces come in two groups of identical sizes, squares of 3' x 3' and 4' x 4', and all in acrylic, the medium of choice for this emerging disciple of the genre.

For one who could have been seriously handicapped by the lack of formal training, the works are amazingly erudite in their use of the medium, revealing a sensibility intimately attuned with color, texture and composition.

The paintings deal with a personal theme that evokes a wide spectrum of moods and feelings, as can be readily gleaned from the titles ("Summer Love," "A Bright Day". "Summer Solstice").

Awash in a sea of monochromatic colors, the paintings conjure a spiritual realm that lends itself to contemplation. The pictorial field is spare, the mood both subdued and rapturous.

The compositions reveal a reductive spirit in the richly layered panoply that alludes to the manifold states of feeling and being.

Fleeting moods

On extended viewing, the works reveal variations of elemental colors, predominantly reds and blues and yellows, enhanced by whirling impastos and solid brushwork which, thanks to the artist's ambidexterity, allude to fleeting moods, sheer stillness, spirituality coalescing with the physical.

The works bear an affinity to those by Lao Lianben, who has evolved into a purist following his recent forays into Zen Buddhism.

Benitez is, truth to tell, more deeply enamored with the organic power of color, not as an instrument for exacting bravura but in manifesting a more contemplative nature. With an astute sensibility, anchored in harmony rather than chaos, reason more than intuition, Benitez has imbibed the quintessential qualities of a true abstractionist.

There is no doubt that, in this initial show, he is off to an auspicious start, indeed, the beginning of an exciting second wind for a lawyer who has wisely turned to art in his search for identity, a postmodern world open to all sorts of possibilities.

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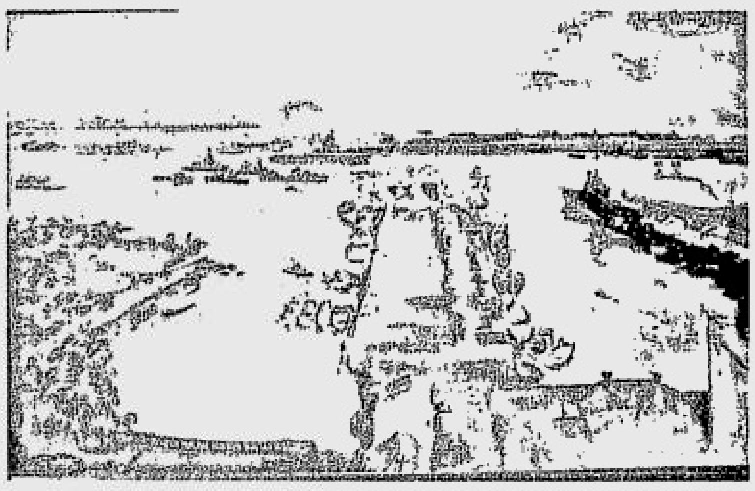


"HARBOR Scene," oil, by Federico Alcuaz at Gallery Nine anniversary show

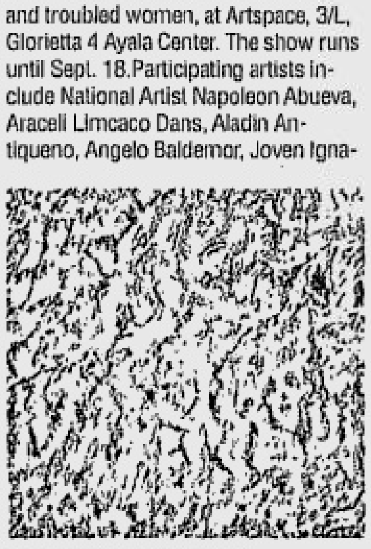
Vitasa at 139, Martinez at Mag:Net, group show at Nine

GALLERY 139 presents Inna Naanep-Vitasa's "Petal Attraction" until Sept. 10 at 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. The artist explores themes related to her gardening, in vertical, scroll-type paintings reminiscent of the Chinese art school

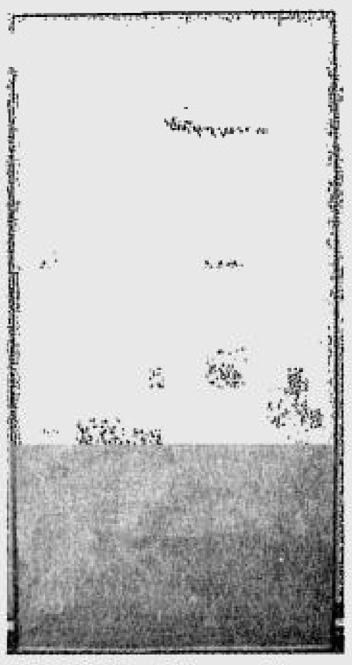
VISUAL ARTS

CINEMATOGRAPHER Dindo Martinez holds his first one-man show at the Mag:Net gallery in Makati (Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas and Sedeno St., Makati) on Sept. 11. The works in "Between Grinds" were completed in between the artist's work as a photographer and cinematographer of short films and commercials. They are large-scale monochromatic abstractions in acrylic on canvas.

GALERIE Y mounts "Handog," a group art for the benefit of CRIBS Philippines, a non-government agency that has a halfway home for abandoned babies and troubled women, at Artspace, 3/L, Glorietta 4 Ayala Center. The show runs until Sept. 18.Participating artists include National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Araceli Limcaco Dans, Aladin Antiqueno, Angelo Baldemor, Joven Ignacio, Azor Pazcoguin, Tito Sanchez and Janice Liuson-Young.



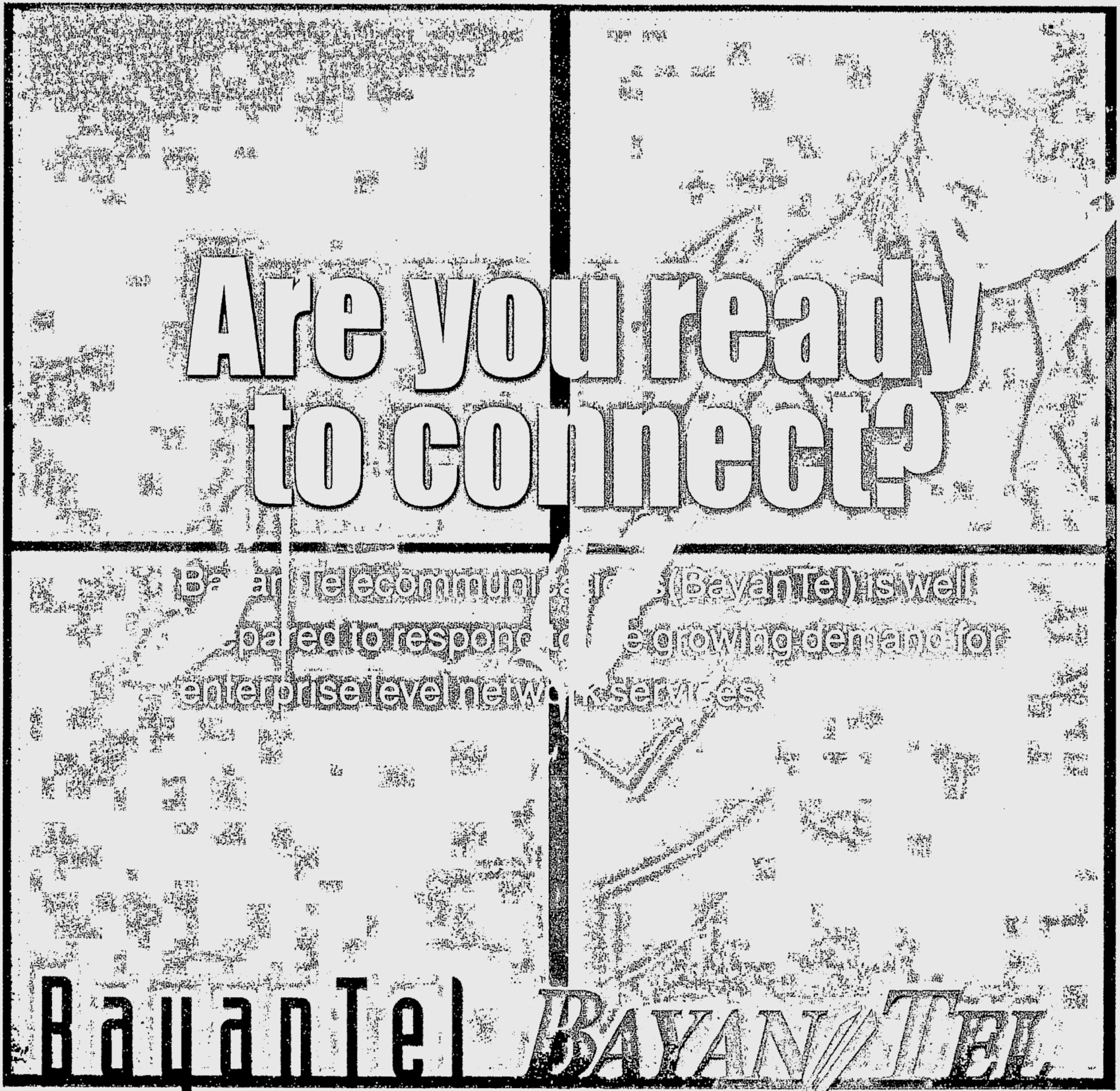
"CARNAVALE 2003," by Christine Amador



"HOOKED and Bounced," acrylic, by Dindo Martinez, at Mag:net-Makati

JANDRO'S Art Gallery features the 24 works of Christine Amador until Sept. 30 on the ground floor of Parque Guadalupe Building, Antipolo Street, Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati. Amador studied at the Slade School of Art and the BYAM Shaw School of Art in London.

GALLERY Nine marks its fourth anniversary with the group show "4ward" at the Art Center of the SM Megamall, starting Sept. 10. Featured artists include Federico Alcuaz, Angelito Antonio, Fatima Antonio, Norma Belleza, Raul Lebajo, Romeo Forbes, Alfred Galura, Romulo Galicano, Yveese Belen, Tres Roman, Bin Samonte, Edsal Moscoso, Anton Balao. Call 6877302 or 8992704.



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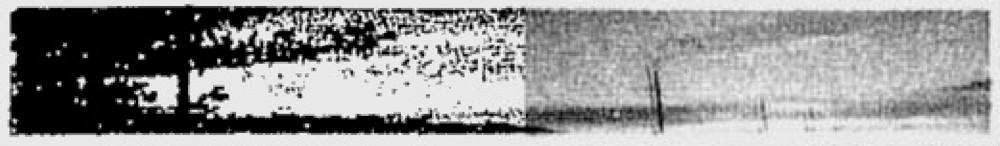

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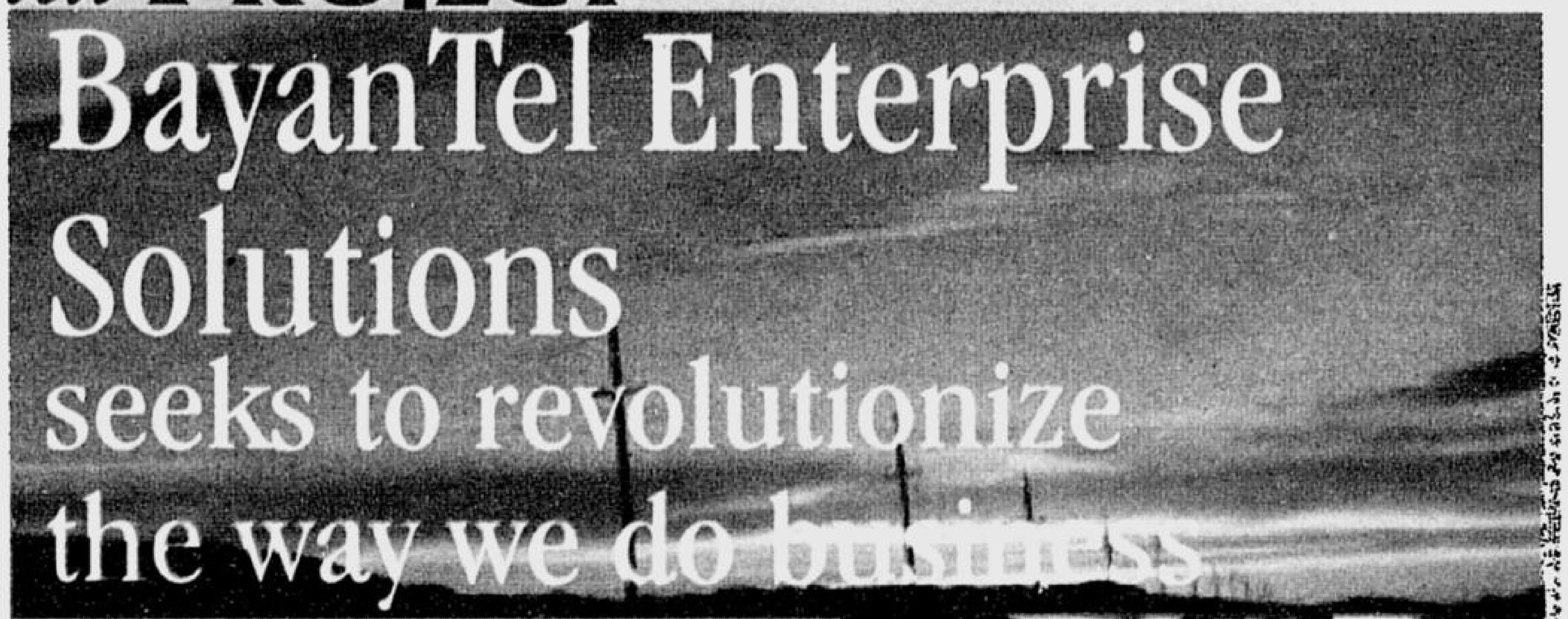


BayanTel Enterprise Solutions seeks to revolutionize the way we do business

IN THIS fast paced era, more and more people and businesses have jumped aboard the information superhighway and are literally gobbling almost every service offered in the electronic data market for their own purpose and benefit.

The Internet and its multitude of benefits such as sending email, information search, electronic file transfer and download, and streaming videos have changed the way we do business today. Companies are also recognizing the need to link multiple offices via a corporate network to facilitate the flow of information and shorten service delivery to customers.

In the country alone, data services grew by almost 32 percent in 2001 or an estimated $2.5 billion and it's growing rapidly, spurred further by its increasing affordability.

But before we get entangled up with the dizzying data over cables, computers, phones and networks, are we sure that what we are getting in terms of data services, are cost effective and will benefit us in the long run? Is the network reliable or dependable at all times and can carry data with ease and speed? Finally, is the service secure enough for us to send and receive sensitive data?

Speed and ease, reliability and security--these are the qualities we are looking for. And BayanTel, through its customized Enterprise Solutions, develops bundled solutions utilizing its in-house data services to respond to the increasingly unique demand for enterprise network services.

BayanTel's Enterprise Solutions

Every client has service requirements that are unique for their type of operations. While other telecom providers sell specific products that the client needs to customize himself, BayanTel offers solutions that the client simply has to plug-in and use almost immediately. Among the com-

SOLUTIONS/ 3

BayanTel

IPVPN

The Internet and its multitude of benefits such as sending email, information search, electronic file transfer and download, and streaming videos have changed the way we do business today. Companies are also recognizing the need to link multiple offices via a corporate network to facilitate the flow of information and shorten service delivery to customers

BayanTel Enterprise Solutions seeks to revolutionize the way we do business

From page 2

ponents that BayanTel custom-fits as an enterprise solution are:

IP-VPN

The IP-VPN (Internet Protocol Virtual Private Network) solution allows companies to transmit data and voice communications between individuals, branch offices, and the corporate network in a secure and reliable manner through a public infrastructure like the Internet.

"IP-VPN is connectivity between offices and a secure virtual transport device inside a public network such as the Internet," said Michael Soriano, manager of business alliance development and special projects and corporate and business markets.

"We extend the service up to the point that when a client wants to connect to his head office, he will simply dial-up and the connection to the Internet will allow him a direct and secure private connection to his office local area network (LAN)."

A fast and most cost-effective way to access a company's database is through the Internet, but there's always the danger of your data being accessed by anybody. The IP-VPN secures your data by making you go to secure domain areas and access to these areas is secured by an "encryption" technology that serves like a wall.

"The major edge of IP-VPN is it provides stringent security for your data," said Soriano. "It allows you to go to your site and via proper authentication you can enter secure domain areas. The IP-VPN gives you a straight physical connection via a public IP. Security is done with 3DES encryption, meaning a client is assured of a safe, secure and highly reliable connection to his office without the prying eyes over the public Internet."

"It's like having a private network on a public structure," added Soriano.

IP-VPN addresses stringent connectivity, security and flexibility requirements of small to large-scale businesses.

Soriano said businesses, whether large or medium to small scale can benefit from the IP-VPN. Businesses with branches can immediately access and oversee the conduct of their branches through their own Website. The connection is private and exclusive and from there, you can check the day's sales, inventory, and other statistics.

Soriano said the IP-VPN is definitely a cost-effective alternative to other network services and is a simple and easy-to-operate system for inter-branch/office connectivity. Even if you use only pre-paid Internet cards, the system works and can connect all your offices to the head office at a very minimal cost.

"IP-VPN is a transport service to those who cannot afford the high cost of data handling and solutions of other network providers," said Soriano.

Leased Lines and Frame Relay

Did you know that 80 percent of the top banks in the country are running their ATM networks on BayanTel's network?

These banks have been relying on BayanTel's leased lines and frame relay for a reliable linkage to multiple branches and for fast and secure connections.

Leased lines are digital, direct, and dedicated link to local and international destinations.

Frame Relay

Frame Relay is a system that allows open architecture and plug-and-play service implementation for multiple users through the use of a single access circuit and port. It supports multiple user applications and eliminates multiple private lines, thus cost for hardware is significantly decreased. Frame Relay is used by banks and related institutions, for example, for capital acquisition of funds.

BayanTel has also significant market share in the provision of data services to major industries such as manufacturing, pharmaceutical, food, as well as in government and educational institutions.

DSL

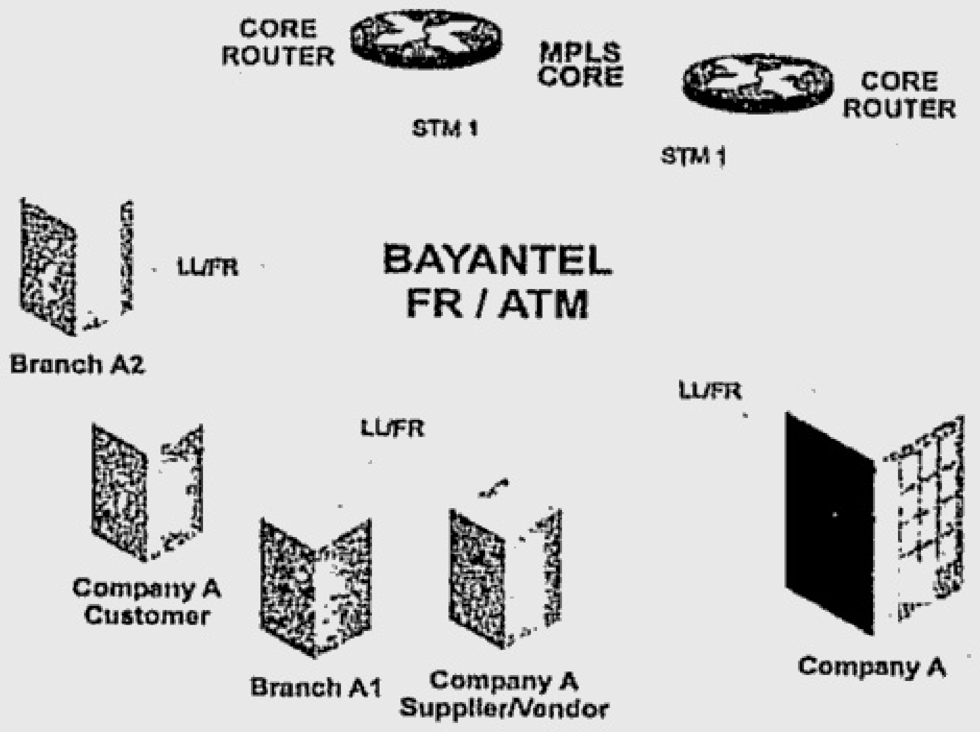
Surf the Internet at mind-blowing speeds through BayanTel's digital subscriber line or commonly known as DSL.

Bayantel's DSL is a high-speed, high-bandwidth Internet access service that allows users uninterrupted internet connectivity and enables large file transfers and downloads, video and audio streaming and high-speed internet surfing.

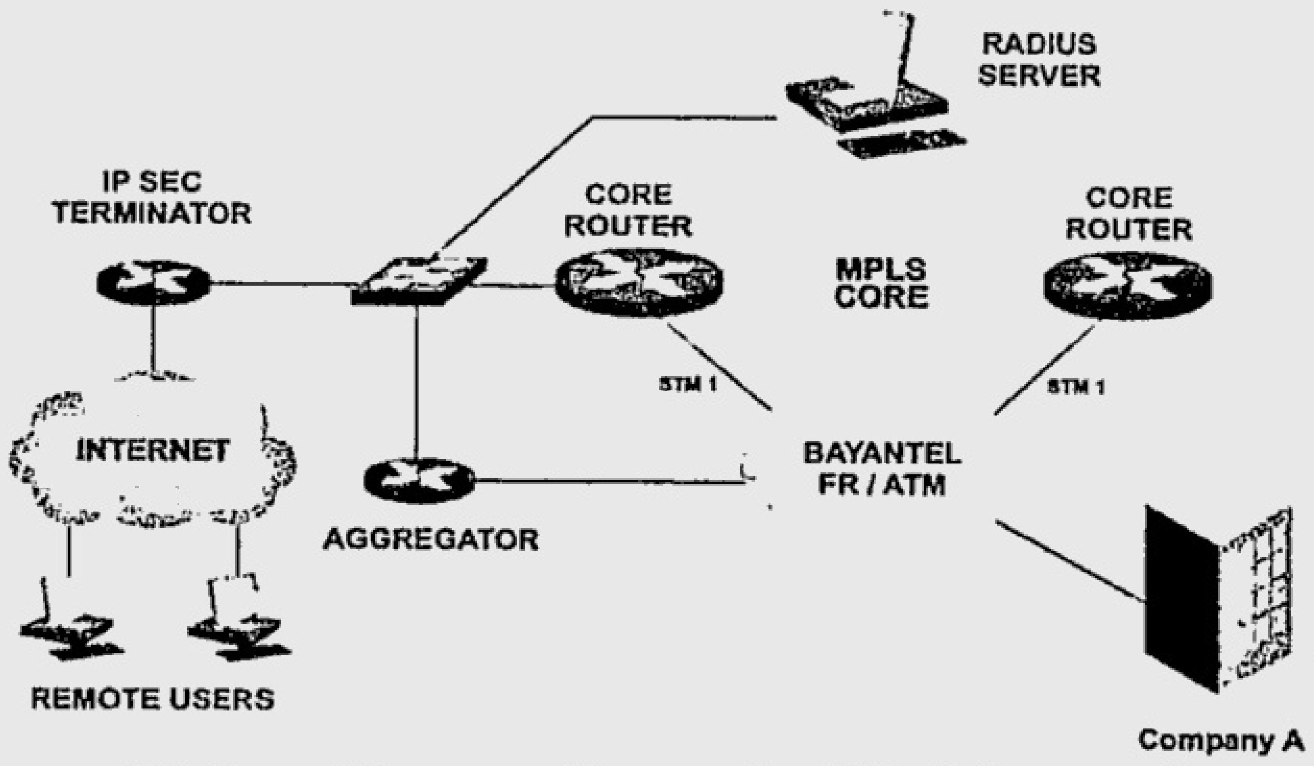
Available at speeds of 128kbps and faster, BayanTel DSL allows the use of high-capacity applications such as video conferencing and voice messaging. Other applications such as Remote Data warehousing, Data Recov-

SOLUTIONS/4

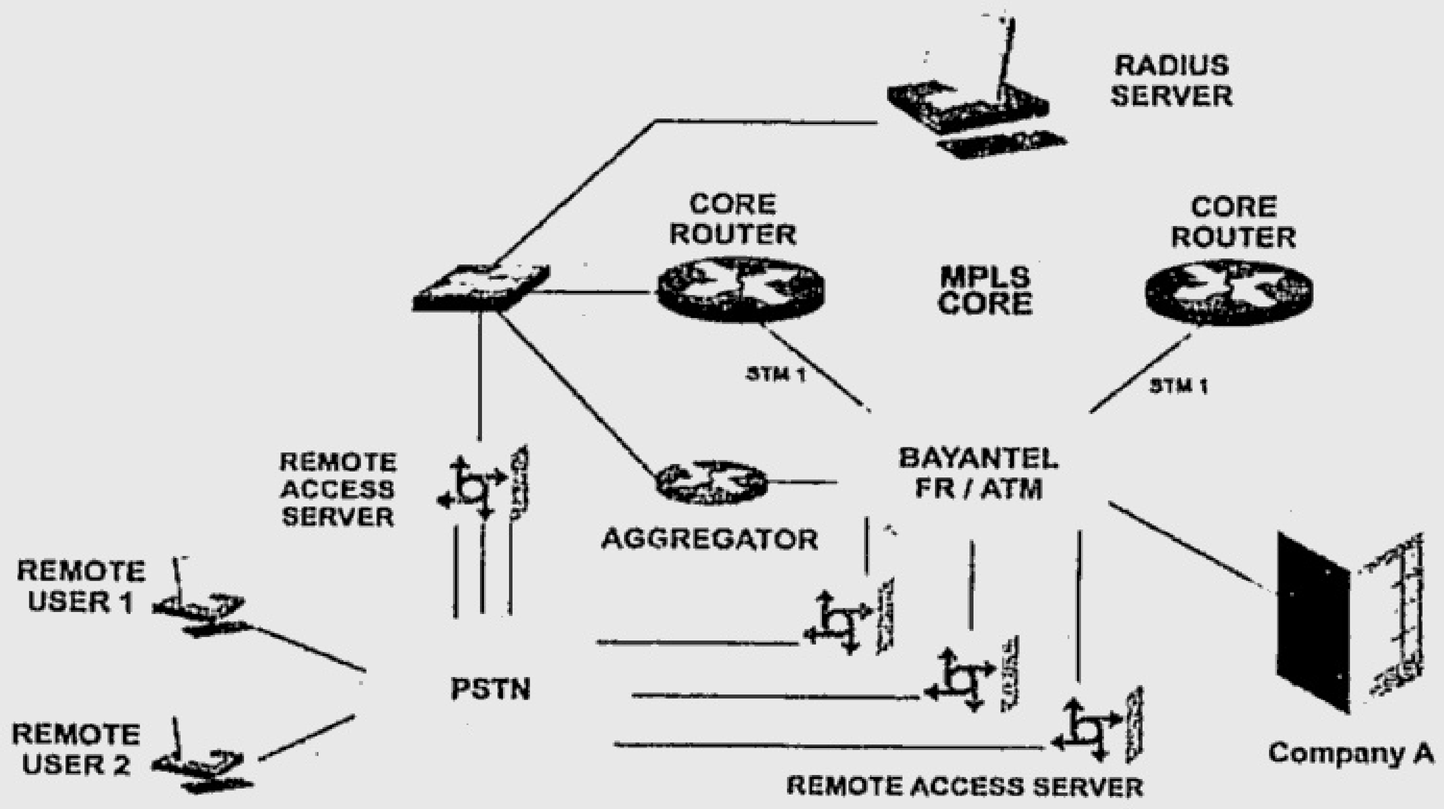
BAYANTEL offers flexibility with various suite of network and premises-based IP-VPN such as site-to-site, IP Sec or secure remote dial access and dedicated and shared VPDN (Virtual Private Dial-in Network



Site-to-site



IP Sec (Secure Remote Dial Access)



Dedicated and shared VPDN
(Virtual Private Dial-in Networks)

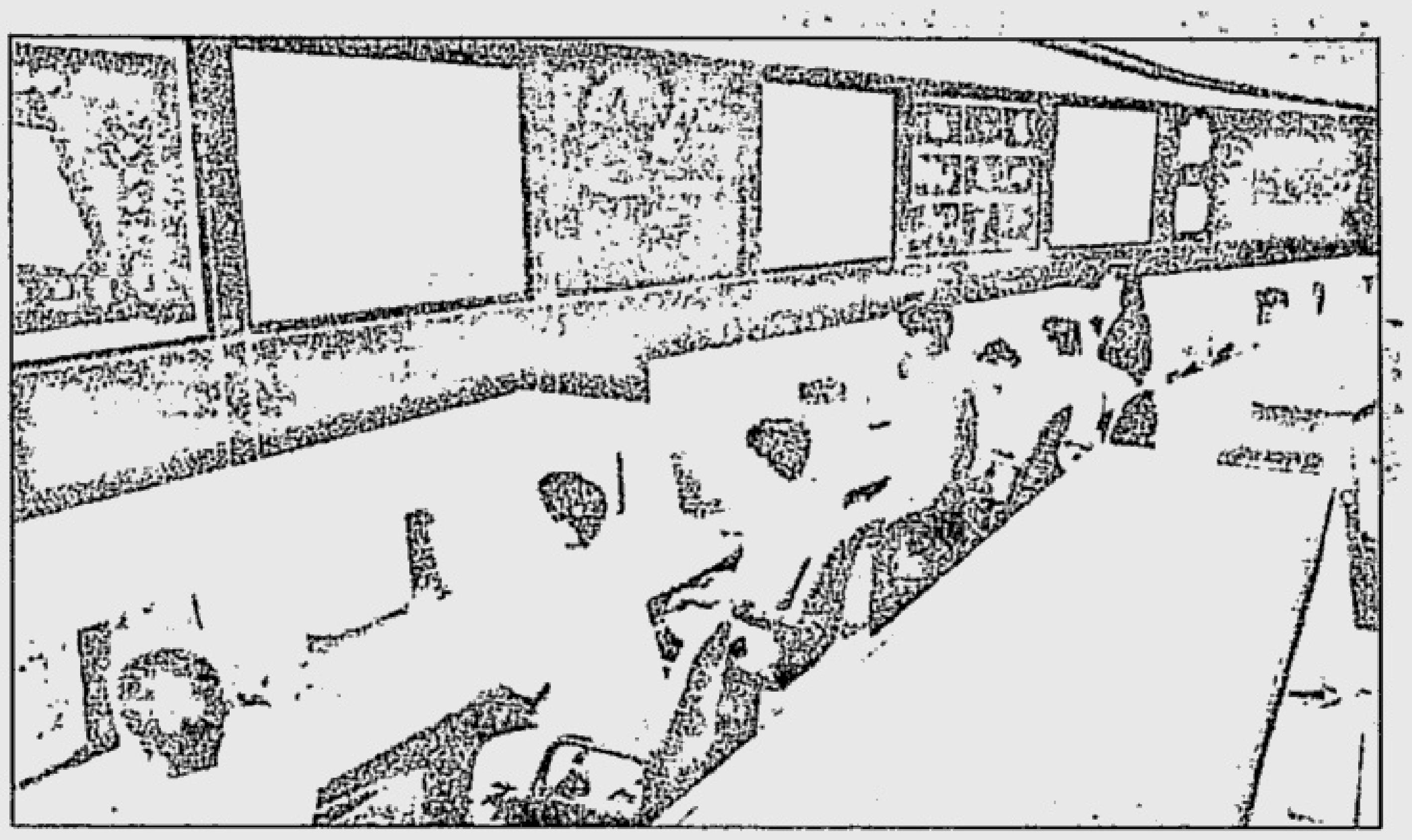
BayanTel Enterprise Solutions seeks to revolutionize the way we do business

ery, Inter-Office file transfers and E-Commerce operate seamlessly and efficiently.

Internet Access Service

Whether you're running a local service provider, an Internet café, or connecting your network of employees through the Internet, BayanTel's Internet Access Service can provide a full array of Internet Service offering that comes in 64 kbps to 2048 kbps bundled with high-speed Frame Relay and Leased Line access nationwide.

This service also includes various value added services such as Web and E-mail hosting and total integration packages. This service is ideal for start-up companies and entities that need high-speed network connection to the Internet.



RELIABILITY, with its 24x7 network surveillance, is BayanTel's competitive edge

The NDTN backbone

Giving full back up to these enterprise solutions is a network of infrastructure BayanTel has established since it began operating as a telecommunications company in 1993.

BayanTel has built a nationwide, seamless and fully redundant network consist ing of satellite, terrestrial and land/submarine based cable facilities. This network includes capacities in the National Digital Transmission Network (NDTN), of which BayanTel owns 83 percent.

The NDTN is the only major alternative communications backbone in the country, the other being operated by another telecommunications company. The NDTN network extends from the northern regions of the country to the urban centers of the Southern Philippines. This network includes a synchronous digital hierarchy (or SDH) microwave network with spur links that also extend from Luzon to Mindanao.

Gain an edge with BayanTel Enterprise Solutions

Key to the successful marketing of BayanTel's data products and services is to "demystify" the notion that having such "high-tech" services is expensive and complicated, according to Franz Nadela, marketing head for corporate and business markets.

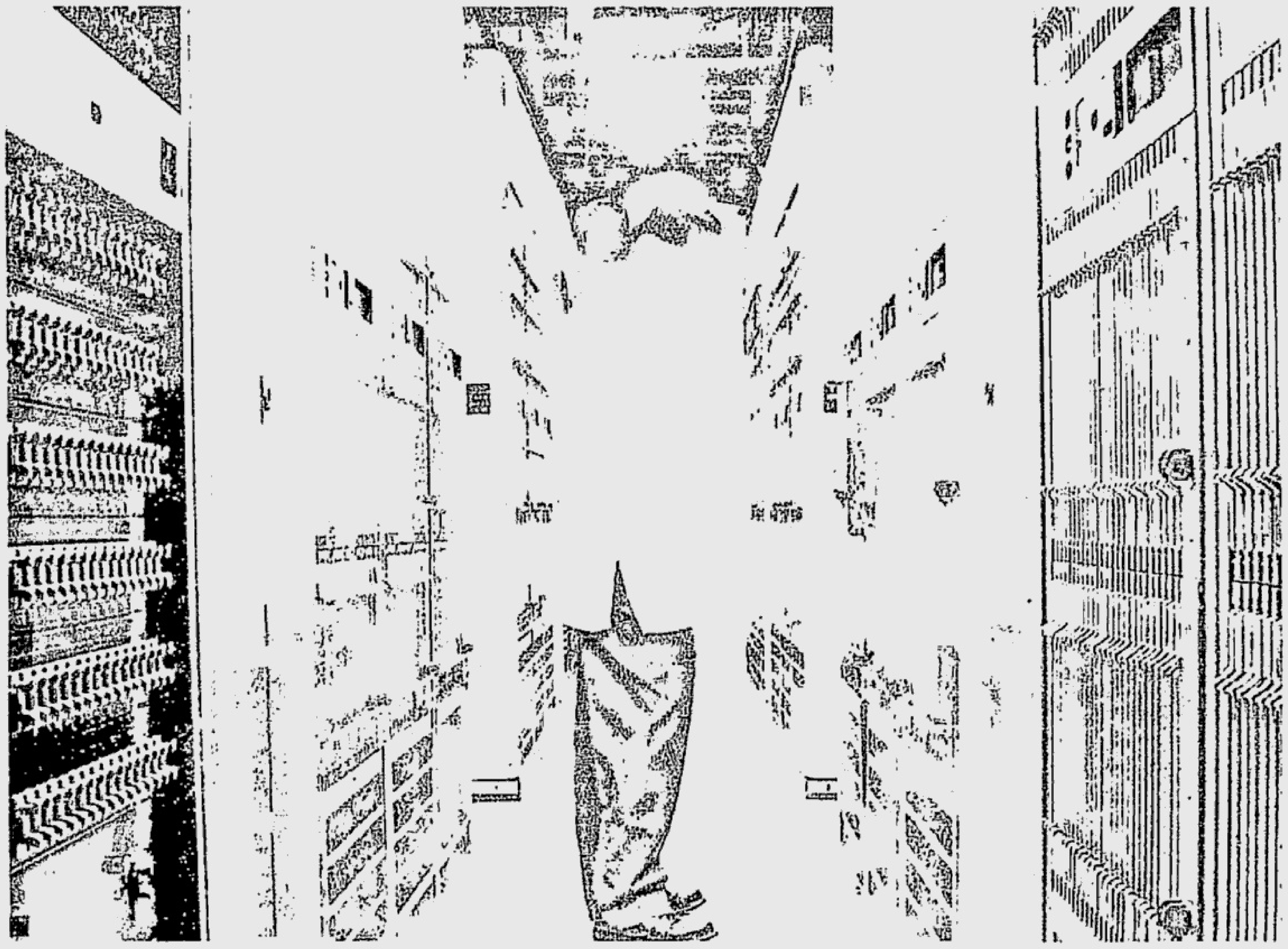
BayanTel offers honest solutions that are "tailor fit" to the needs of a client and he or she is assured of reliability of networks.

"Unlike other providers, we do not focus on the technicalities of the business but rather on how these solutions will improve the customer's business," said Mr. Nadela. "Interconnection need not be expensive and complicated. We want to show the customers that they don't always need costly and sophisticated networks to run their business data requirements."

"BayanTel identifies the customer's specific needs, assesses the company's problems and acts upon them without having to offer other products that the customer doesn't need. At the same time, we manage our facilities from end-to-end so clients can be assured of reliability. We always commit to our promises."

BayanTel Enterprise Solutions can help customers manage their business better and become profitable. These solutions allow customers to concentrate on their core businesses and utilize technology for day-to-day information and communication needs.

From network planning, to system installation and customization of products, BayanTel Enterprise Solutions provide customers with the simplest, cost-effective and value-added services.



BAYANTEL can serve the connectivity requirements of small to large corporations that is secure and reliable

BayanTel Enterprise Solutions can help customers manage their business better and become profitable

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

Whether you run an oil company or a music store, BayanTel Enterprise Solutions can package a customized bundle of products and services that will help streamline your operations. When we connect you to your branch office or to the internet, you can quickly and reliably transfer voice, video or data every day of the year. We'll do everything we can to simplify your business process so you run more efficiently and more profitably. From DSL and Frame Relay to Leased Lines and Long Distance, all are designed to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so you have nothing to worry about. Whether it's firing up your business or drumming up your sales, BayanTel Enterprise Solutions will make the connection for you. For inquiries, call 449-2200.

BAYAN TEL
BETTER THAN EVER

Well-prepared for the da

BayanTel is focused, strengthened. and determined to aggressively enlarge market the data and Internet services business

By Raquel P. Gomez

BAYANTEL is focused, strengthened, and determined to enlarge its market share in the data and Internet services business, a robust and fast growing sector in the electronics and telecommunications sector.

Junie Pama, Vice President for Corporate and Business Markets, said BayanTel is now in a confident position to protect and enlarge its market base in the banking, manufacturing and government sectors and will aggressively pursue more data services accounts in the business and financial districts in the coming months with its "fiber-to-the-building" strategy.

Pama said BayanTel currently has the "ideal mix of infrastructure, talent, core competencies and the right strategy that will make us a strong player in the market."

"It's ambitious, but I believe we have the right components," he said.

Pama said BayanTel is in the midst of powering up most of the major buildings in the Makati and Ortigas areas by the end of the year and supply the locators in these buildings with BayanTel's Enterprise Solutions, a suite of integrated services tailor-fitted for the individual customer's unique requirements.

Product positioning

BayanTel, contrary to the perception that it remains to be just a telephone company just like it was when it was first established in 1993, is actually deeply entrenched in providing data services to the major corporations across practically all industries. It provides the network for the ATMs in 80 percent of the major banks in the country, as well as the data and telecommunications needs of top manufacturing companies and leading government institutions.

"Our objective is to corner 35 to 40 percent of the data and Internet services market in the next two years as we complete the installation of service facilities in the commercial business districts of Metro Manila," said Pama, adding that BayanTel has invested substantially for the project.

"The stage is rapidly being set for our eventual domination of the markets we operate in. Our Enterprise solutions are designed to address the particular requirements of each market ably supported by an expert team of Network and IT Engineers and Customer Service personnel. Also, unlike in the past, we will aggressively implement awareness-building activities such as pocket launches of Bayantel-empowered buildings, information fora, and the like, so that all may know that there is a much-better alternative for their voice, data, and Internet needs."

In recent months, BayanTel has re-energized its competencies as a company, underwent a culture change from within, refocused its strengths and adopted a strategy of further building its growth in the data and Internet service businesses while maintaining the revenue streams from its voice or fixed line business.

Pama said the renewed business outlook of BayanTel suitably reflected the company's core

services provider. He added tha

Corporation or ICC, the prede

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"Among all the local teleco

BayanTel is fully equipped

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critical business solution. B

for that," said Pama.

Solution provider

BayanTel boasts of a com

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Bayantel revamps Network M as commitment to reliability s

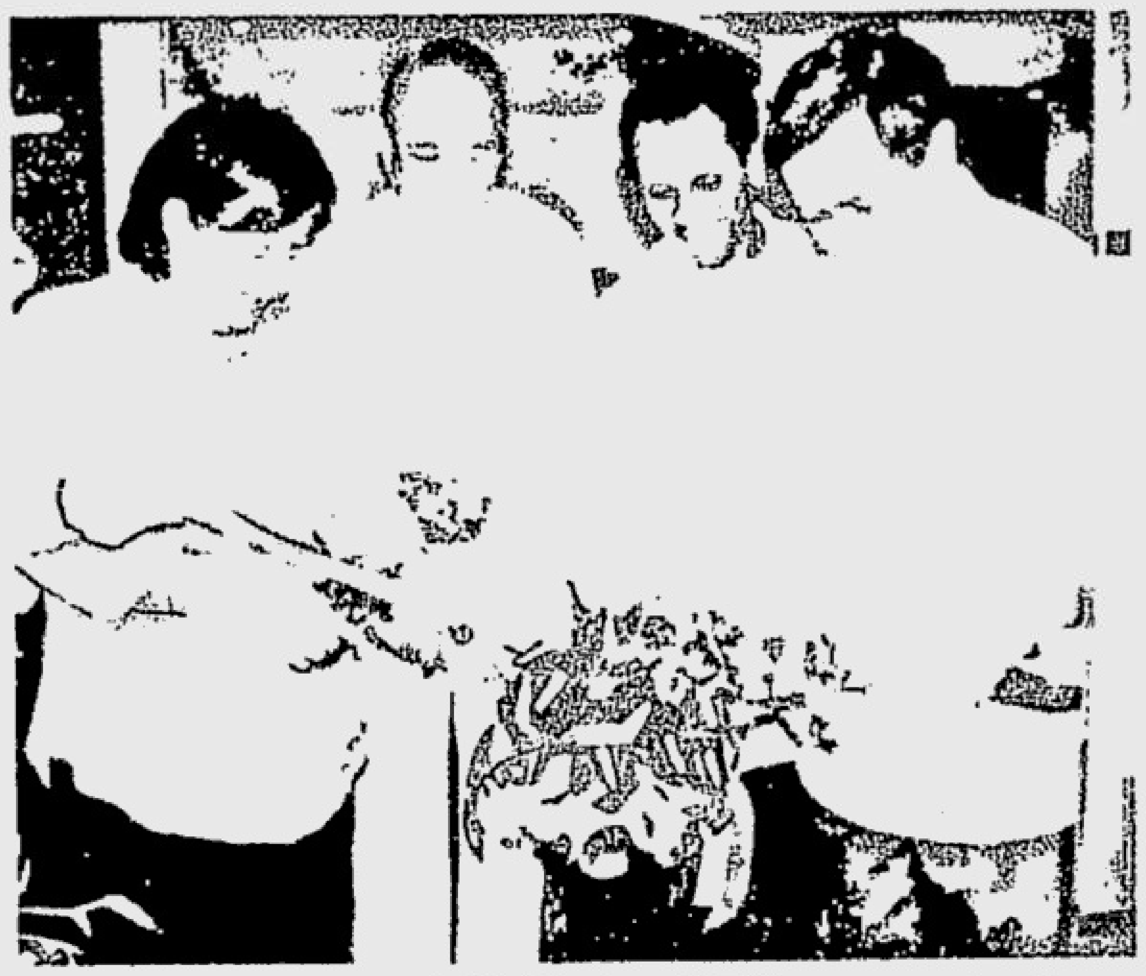
BAYANTEL Telecommunications (BayanTel) re-launched its Network Management Center (NMC) to demonstrate its strong commitment to elevate its standards in network reliability.

The NMC is the "brains" of the BayanTel network infrastructure, utilizing the latest technology to combine all surveillance, analysis and traffic control functions for the entire BayanTel Network.

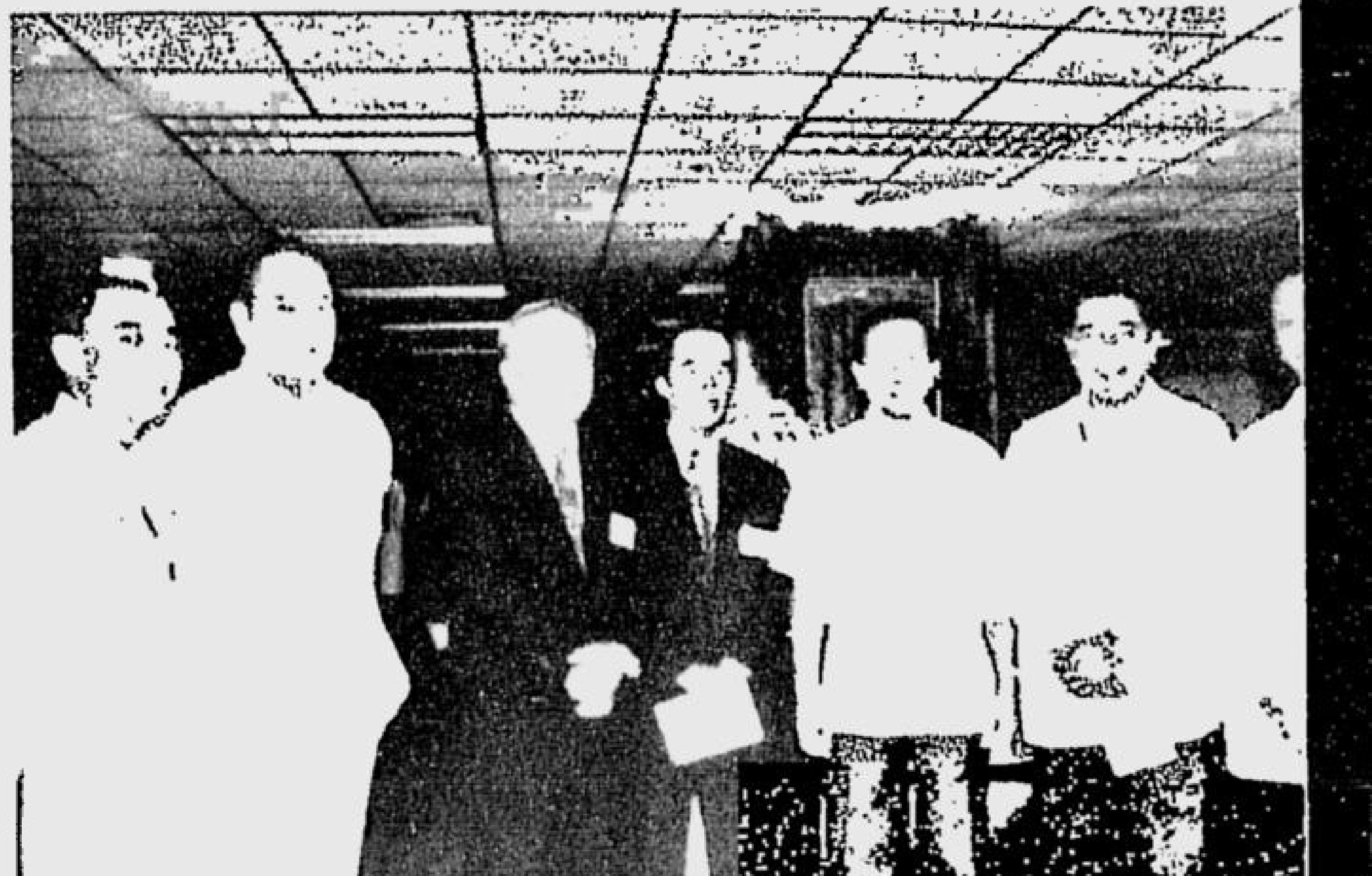
BayanTel chief consultant Tunde Fafunwa said: "The BayanTel NMC was made operational in 1996 and set the bar for efficient network management with its integrated function of real-time information gathering, traffic management and resolution of network-related problems.

By revamping the NMC and making it more accessible, we want to establish transparency with our clients by providing them the oppor-

REVAMPS/ 10



SHOWN are (from left) National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Commissioner Armie Jane Borje, BayanTel Board Member Atty. Augusto Almeda Lopez, BayanTel Chief Consultant Tunde Fafunwa and Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Gregory Domingo



SHOWN are (from left), BayanTel Vice-president for Corporate and B Markets Junie Pama, Atty Almeda Lopez, Mitsubishi Corp. Manila Bra General Manager Masakazu Okabayashi, Deputy General Manager At Noguchi, BayanTel Chief Finance Officer Gary Olivar and Mr. Fafunwa

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utilizing our network for their
We were ahead of the market

when we offered IP VPN in 1997. We are also strong in traditional data facilities such as frame relay and leased lines. These facts confirm BayanTel's ability to meet the needs of even the most stringent corporate customers in data services."

Apart from its network infrastructure, Pama believes BayanTel sets itself apart from competition by being primarily a solutions provider.

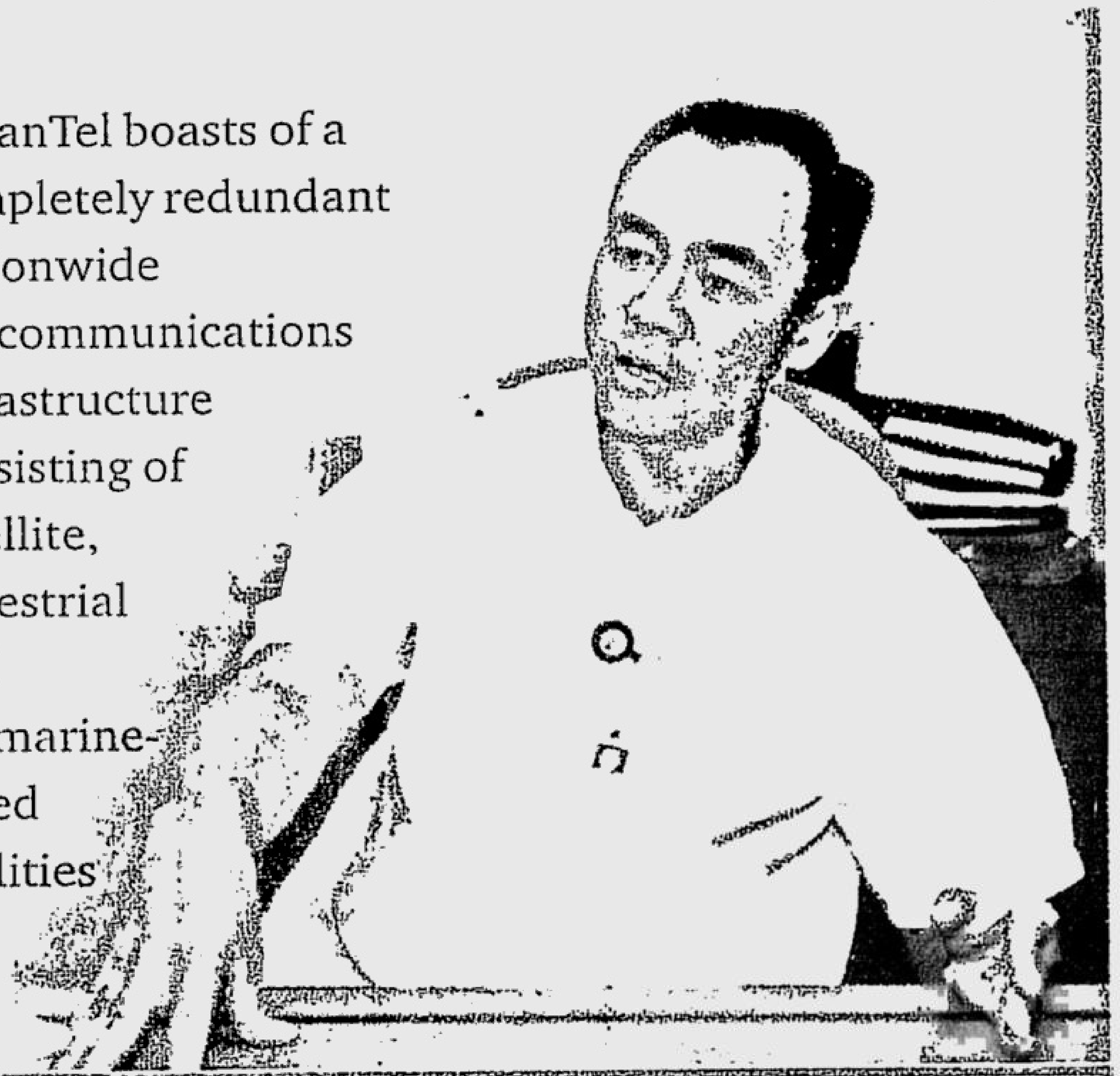
"We do not take our products out of a box, give it to the customer, and let the client figure out how it can work for them. Our accounts people take time to learn the client's business and then provide data solutions that would improve their business. Our account managers are trained to be consultants and approach the client's needs from a solution standpoint."

Pama added Bayantel has the advantage of speed when it comes to setting up the infrastructure to client.

"Our speed of deployment in putting up a structure is our major difference over the other telco providers," said Pama "We commit to install within 5 days for our DSL clients. We also have a flexibility of presence advantage because we are willing to put our service in those areas not serviced by others."

Pama believes BayanTel has all the necessary ingredients to take advantage of the opportunities in the growing data market. "We believe we are ready to serve a bigger pie of the market because we have the right strategy, the right people and a highly reliable infrastructure in place."

BayanTel boasts of a completely redundant nationwide telecommunications infrastructure consisting of satellite, terrestrial and submarine-based facilities



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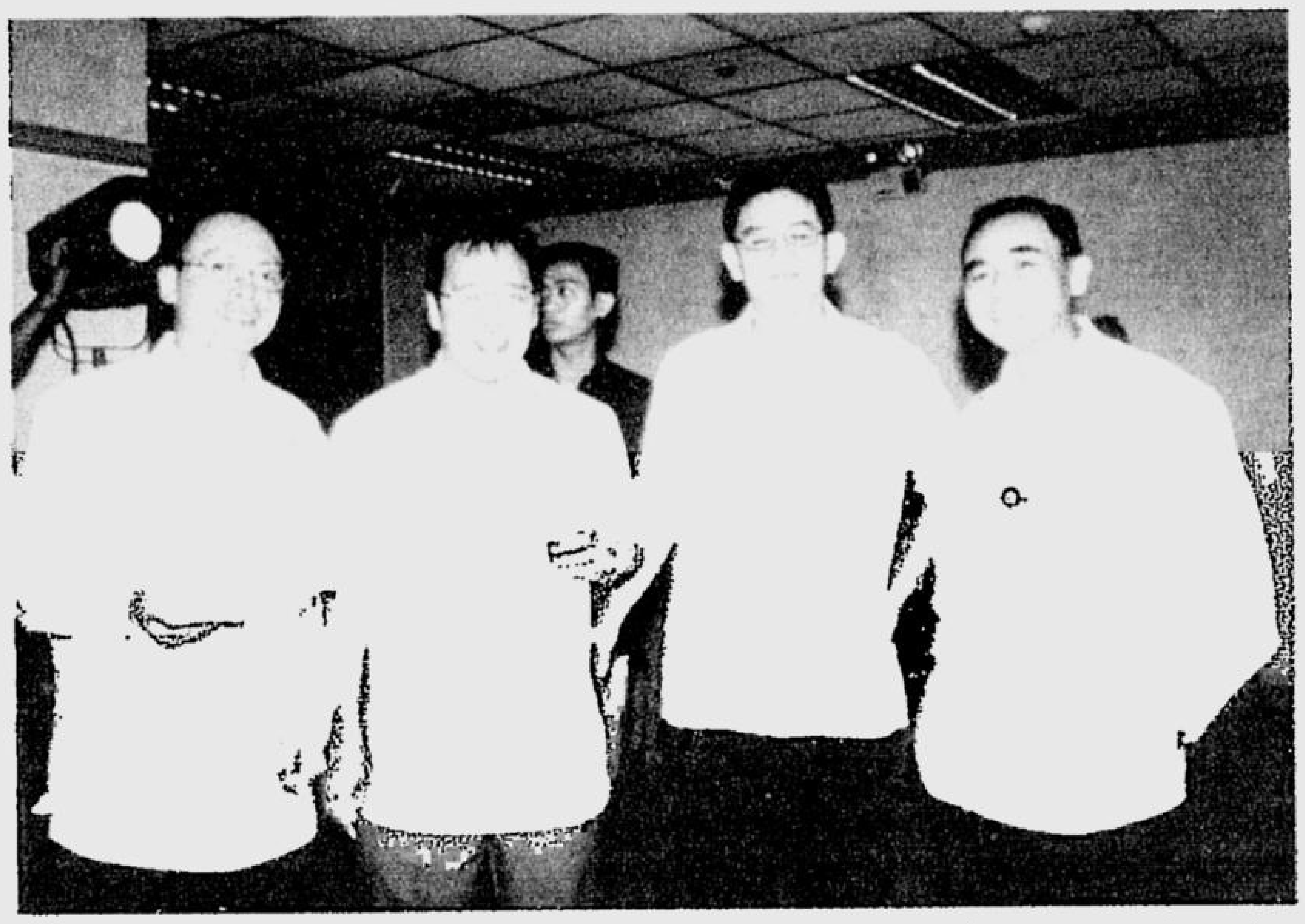
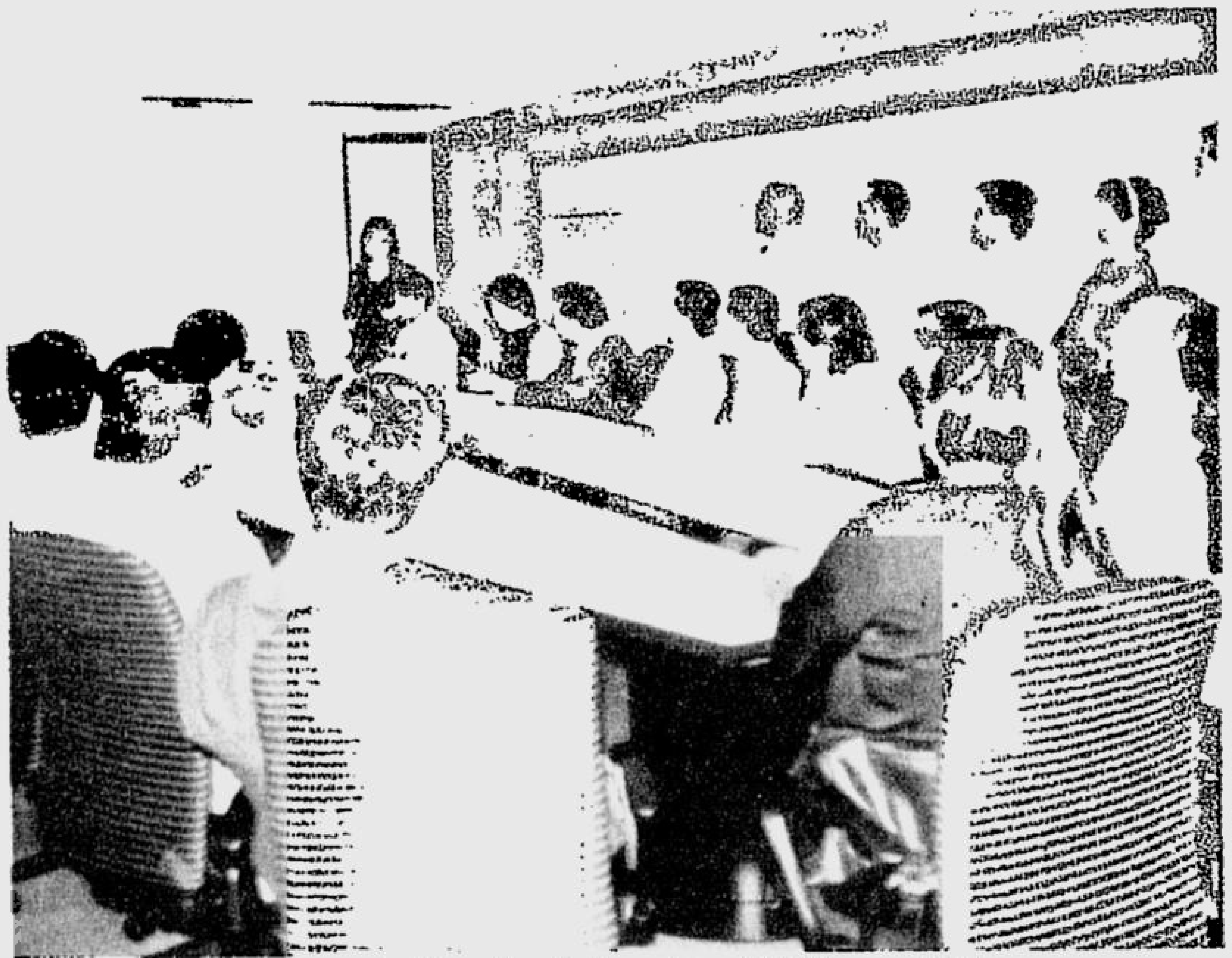


SHOWN are (from left) BayanTel Vice-president for product development Joevel Rivera; Elmer Malolos, Communication Practice Leader, IBM-BCS; Joseph Almirante, Senior Consultant, IBM, Business Consultant Services and Junie Pama



GUESTS were presented with a simulation of the NMC's capabilities

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

Whether you run a construction company or a hotel, BayanTel Enterprise Solutions can package a customized bundle of products and services that will help streamline your operations. When we connect you to your branch office or to the internet, you can quickly and reliably transfer voice, video or data every day of the year. We'll do everything we can to simplify your business process so you run more efficiently and more profitably. From DSL and Frame Relay to Leased Lines and Long Distance, all are designed to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so you have nothing to worry about. To build your business or earn your 5-stars, BayanTel Enterprise Solutions will make the connection for you. For inquiries call 449-2200.

BAYANTEL
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SUPERIOR QUALITY
DRG
CEMENT • TYPE - I
ISO 9002
CERTIFIED
PRODUCT QUALITY
CEMENT
Teresa Rizal

Holcim Group
UNION

Counting on quick service and reliability

TECHNOLOGY has no doubt changed the way companies do business. Although a little complicated, it has tremendously sped up communication, data gathering and dissemination, and connectivity.

Companies with offices and plants outside Metro Manila benefit most with technology's new innovations. One of them is Union Cement Corp, which is now under the umbrella of Swiss-based Company Holcim. Union is the country's leading suppliers of cement. It also exports cement in other parts of the world.

With four plants in the provinces, aside from its main office in Makati, connectivity is a vital factor in the business.

So in the year 2000, coinciding with the partnership with Holcim, Union upgraded their IT related services to meet the requirements of the growing company.

The immediate need of Union for an upgrade was met instantly by BayanTel Enterprise Solutions.

"Aside from its reputable name, BayanTel's quick response to our inquiry was one of the key factors we opted to secure their data products and communication services," said Jose Crisanto Natividad, Union Cement's Business Application Manager.

That was a critical time for the company and they needed a provider that could help them with the requirements imperative for the implementation of the new system.

A business application system called SAP had to be readily implemented in all of Union Cement's plants namely in Bacnotan, La Union; Norzagaray, Bulacan; Lugait, Misamis Oriental; and Davao City as well as the 11 sales offices and cement terminals. "SAP is an ERP system which integrates several aspects of the business," said Reywen delos Reyes, Union Cement's Network Administrator. "We needed a reliable data communications to link our plants and sales offices to process data in production, plant maintenance, purchasing, sales, and finance."

Considering that the plants, sales offices, and cement terminals are located in the provinces, accessibility could be seen as a major hindrance for fast service. However, BayanTel, so far has an edge in remote area access, said Mr. Delos Reyes.

"Since all of the plants and sales offices should be connected to the head office, other communications providers cannot serve some the remote areas," Mr. Delos Reyes added.

One of the BayanTel's services that Union uses right now is the frame relay. "It is a system that makes it possible for various users to access a single circuit and port," Mr. Delos Reyes said.

Union needs all these products essential for the continuous operations of the company.

"When we needed those links, BayanTel was there," said Mr. Natividad.

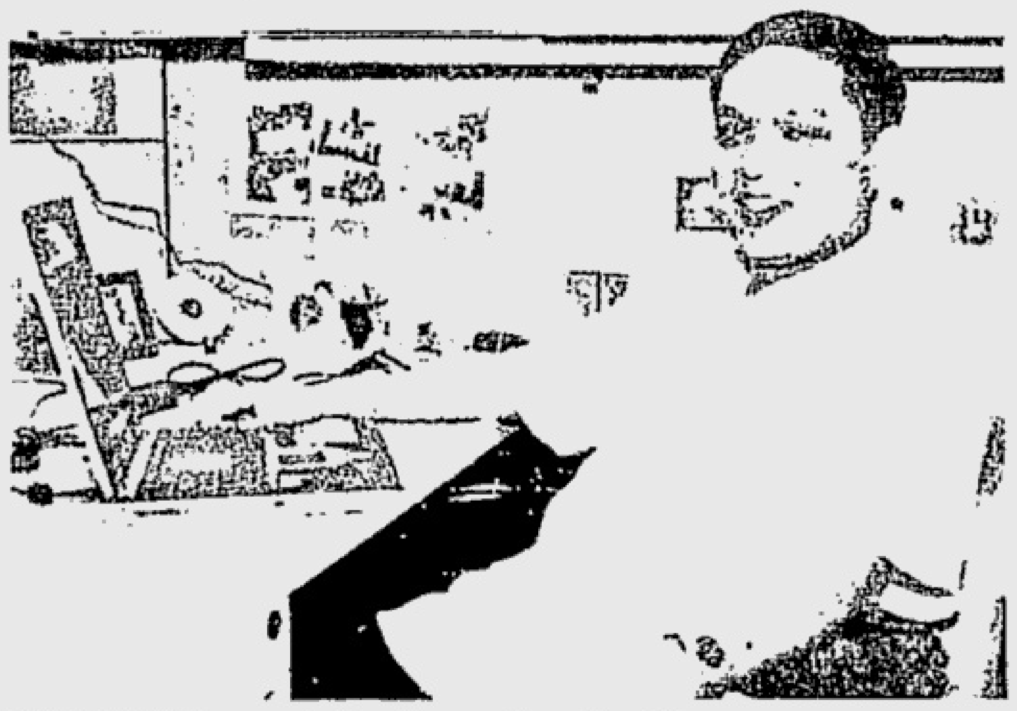
Mr. Natividad also noted the flexibility of the people at BayanTel. "Before, we used to wait for hours even days before we can get an answer from our contact persons," he said. "With BayanTel, our questions, technical or otherwise, are answered instantly whether the person we are talking to are technical experts or not."

Mr. Delos Reyes, on the other hand, specifically noted the quick response of BayanTel's technical support.

Because Union is now connected with a global company, it is looking at BayanTel to provide an international connectivity service where Union's mobile users can connect to their system where ever they are in the world.

"An international service would be great and very helpful for us," Mr. Natividad said.

Mr. Delos Reyes has a more achievable suggestion. "It would be easier if BayanTel would be more proactive to inform us beforehand when our systems will go down."



UNION Cement Business Application Manager Jose Crisanto Natividad

Charity Sweepstakes Office

Providing links for a good cause

PCSO OIC for Licensing and Processing Michu de Ocampo

SINCE it began operations in 1995, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's online lottery has been running on BayanTel's leased lines.

PCSO's online lottery has more than 1,000 outlets in the Luzon area. About 200 of the outlets are being served by BayanTel's network, with two hundred more to be serviced by BayanTel in the future.

Michu De Ocampo, Officer in Charge for Licensing and Processing Division, said BayanTel has played a big role developing PCSO's fund raising activities for its charitable causes by increasing productivity and effectiveness of its on-line lotto business.

"Service wise, BayanTel has never ceased to extend possible solutions to all our communication requirements. They have always been committed to provide the highest quality performance."

De Ocampo said BayanTel's network is reliable and the company is always at hand to respond to any request as well as provide the needed support and assistance.

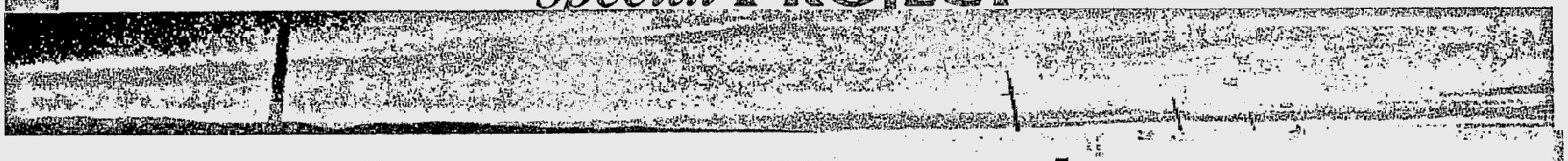
"BayanTel has a service communication network that is able to deliver a cost effective solution to all our requests in the online lottery. It has been transparent to all our needs, whether the request can be delivered or not, but they offer a wide range of technological innovation to improve our needs."

De Ocampo said that ever since PCSO introduced the nationwide fully computerized online lottery in the country, the income of the agency has doubled.

She said the game has provided the agency an "enhanced fund generation capability, allowing for it to undertake more fully its mandate to extend medical, social and welfare related assistance to a greater number of Filipinos."

With the income generated from the online lottery, the PCSO too has expanded its services and providing more subsidies to more hospitals and health centers nationwide. The PCSO now carries the theme: "Care, Share and Win. Nakatulong Ka Na, Nakapagkawanggawa Ka Pa."

With the growing demand for more online outlets in the country, Bayantel will always be a mutual partner of the PCSO, according to De Ocampo.



Bayantel revamps Network Management Center as commitment to reliability standards

From page 7

tunity to take a much closer look at our back-end system that supports our commitment to render reliable and dependable service."

Fafunwa also said BayanTel intends to maximize the NMC's full potential both as a critical operational system and as a learning tool in communications technology.

"In fact, we have already forged a partnership with the Mapua Institute of Technology, wherein BayanTel will provide technical training and support via the NMC to enhance the ICT skills of Mapua students in the engineering and communication disciplines," Fafunwa added.

First Philippine Holdings vice chairman and BayanTel board member Atty. Augusto Almeda Lopez led the launch and cocktail reception at BayanTel's Roosevelt operations center in Quezon City, with Undersecretary Gregory Domingo of the Department of Trade and Industry and National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Commissioner Armi Jane Roa-Borje as guests of honor.

"The continuous improvement and upgrading of the NMC is further proof of our efforts to achieve operational excellence to meet our customer's needs and expectations and become their partner of choice for the telecommunication needs. Moving forward, the NMC becomes a showcase of our expertise and technology to clients who wish to avail of our services," Fafunwa said.

The BayanTel NMC is the first network-surveillance system operating in Asia outside of Japan.

It is dedicated to fault surveillance and monitoring and acts as a single point of contact for all network events. It is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure continuous and consistent provision service.

The NMC is powered by a highly sophisticated Network Management System (NMS), which integrates both surveillance and control functions. The NMS gathers "real-time" data and records from all BayanTel digital switches, fiber optic transmission equipment and Outside Plant Access Cabinets (OPACs) and displays the information in graphics and text format.

The NMC also uses a bay of 24 workstations plus a world-class "video wall" of seven (7) 4x5 feet projector screens and four (4) jumbo television monitors. This provides the NOC engineers a comprehensive network-wide view of BayanTel and its operating companies. In the event of a network fault, the NMS allows the NMC engineers access and control of the affected network elements to guarantee continuous and efficient service to BayanTel customers.

The NMC is powered by a highly sophisticated Network Management System (NMS), which integrates both surveillance and control functions. The NMS gathers 'real-time' data and records from all BayanTel digital switches, fiber optic transmission equipment and Outside Plant Access Cabinets (OPACs) and displays the information in graphics and text format

SHOWN are (from left)Sam Soto, Lead Network Analyst, Technology Division, EPCIB; Dennis Opiso, Section Head, Technology Division, EPCIB; Nona Mariano, Channels Head, CBM-BTI; Jane Ang, Division Head, Technology Division, EPCIB; Bong Benjamin, Department Head, Technology Division, EPCIB; and Dennis Benipayo, Account Manager, CBM-BTI.

SHOWN are (from left)Mr. Fafunwa; Odeck Martinez, Manager, Network Communication and Engineering Group, PBCOM; Elsie Maglaya, Head, Procurement, House of Investment, Ms. Mariano and Mr. Pama.

BAYANTEL sales team with Francis Grospe of Shell (sixth from left) and Glenn Orevillo of United Overseas Bank

CLUB BAYANTEL

Developing closer customer connections

WIRELINE data services, along with mobile phones, is considered one of the growth segments in the telecommunications market due to the increasing demand for secure and reliable networks that link corporate offices to multiple branches and broadband Internet connection.

Since the time it was still known as ICC or International Communications Corporation, BayanTel has been one of the leading wireline data providers in the country.

Junie Pama, Vice President for Corporate and Business Markets, cites BayanTel's nationwide network infrastructure that spans the entire Philippine archipelago, along with its extensive data services and solutions customized to customer needs, as its best edge against competition. But more importantly, Mr. Pama believes BayanTel has set itself apart from competition by developing closer relationships with clients.

"The data service business has come to a point that there is parity in the technology being offered by telecommunication providers like BayanTel. We believe we can best differentiate ourselves from our competitors by building closer customer intimacy and providing the best customer service experience possible at all times."

One program that BayanTel has developed to build customer intimacy is the breakfast fora which the company had organized by industry for corporate customers on a quarterly basis. These fora tackled a specific topic relevant to the industry discussed by a highly qualified speaker.

"We call these "learn and greet" sessions wherein our customers learn new developments regarding their industry while we get the opportunity to know them better."

Early this year, BayanTel organized a breakfast forum for the banking industry on developing a disaster recovery program, highlighted by a talk from Finance Undersecretary Manuel Bonoan on the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV).

Top government officials led by Gov. Robert Dean Barbers (second from left, sitting) test the speed of BayanTel DSL

Sessions have also been conducted for the manufacturing sector where developments on the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector was discussed by DOTC Undersecretary Virgilio Pena, and in developing an e-commerce strategy session for the ISP industry and government agencies with E-Lopez consultant Rod Salazar as guest.

Mr. Pama said he is very encouraged by the attendance to these forums, and the learning opportunities that BayanTel has derived from meeting with customers has been enlightening.

"In these sessions, I was very frank with discussing problems and how we were able to address them. Its important that they didn't feel its just a social event but really an opportunity to discuss problems and solutions to improve our business relationship", said Mr. Pama.

BayanTel also launched this year its customer loyalty program for corporate customers in data services - Club BayanTel.

According to Mr. Pama, Club BayanTel seeks to provide value-added services to its customers beyond proViding quality and reliable data products and services.

Mr. Pama stressed that it is important that corporate customers also feel that BayanTel is more than just a reliable telecommunications provider but also a caring and giving partner.

"Through Club BayanTel, we organize events or develop programs where everyone can loosen up, enjoy themselves, while giving us the opportunity to know our customers more on a personal level."

To organize Club BayanTel, long-standing customers as well as those who bring in substantial business were identified.

"While its imperative for us to give our best service to all our corporate customers no matter how small or no matter how recent they have joined us, we also believe our valued customers deserved something more that would further strengthen and nurture our business relationship."

Mr. Pama stressed there is no membership requirement for Club BayanTel, except for being a valued client of BayanTel.

With this criterion in mind, Club BayanTel has invited decision makers of top valued corporate clients of BayanTel, most of which belonging to the top corporations in the country -- from banking, manufacturing, information technology, the government, etc, --- to Club BayanTel events.

To formally launch the club, the 1st Club BayanTel Golf Tournament was held last March at the Tagaytay Highlands. BayanTel President and CEO Eugenio Lopez III led the BayanTel executives who engaged about 50 executives from Club BayanTel companies in a round of golf, food and drinks.

Last May, Club BayanTel members were again treated to the Summer Carnival event at Dish in the Power Plant Mall. Club BayanTel members and their families enjoyed the carnival atmosphere with activities like face painting booths, a program featuring clowns, magicians and a showband, and of course, buffet food. The afternoon was capped off with a free matinee showing of The Matrix Reloaded, one of the most highly anticipated movies last summer, at the Power Plant cinema.

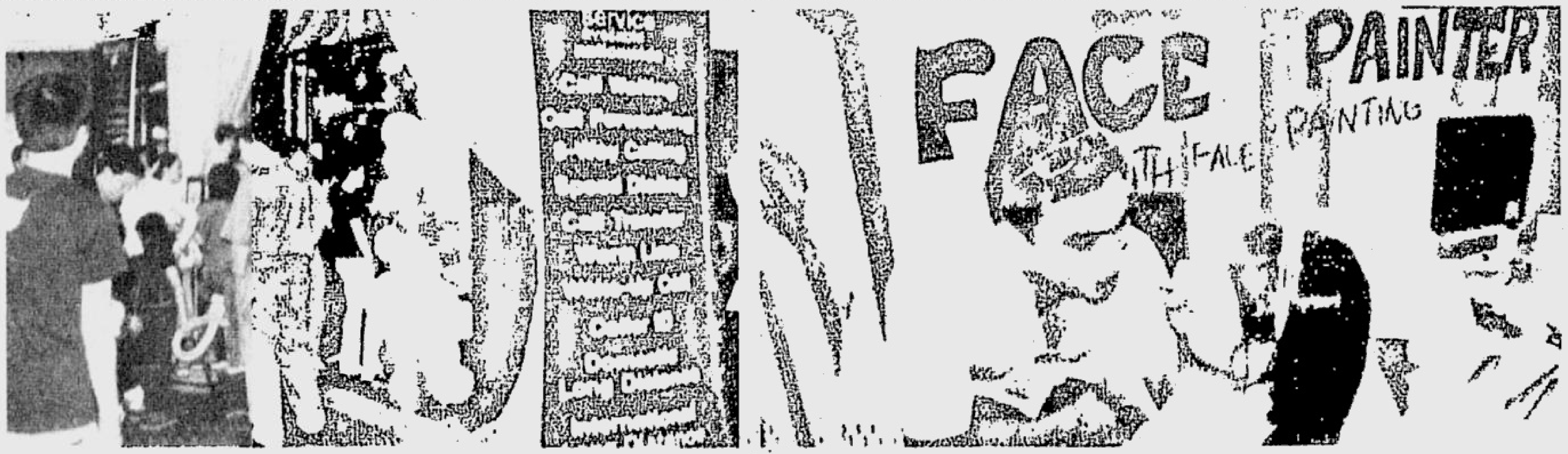
Recently, Club BayanTel, in partnership with Kodak Philippines, allowed members to purchase Kodak Easy Share digital camera series at discounted rates

> "Through Club BayanTel, we organize events or develop programs where everyone can loosen up, enjoy themselves, while giving us the opportunity to know our customers more on a personal level."

Mr. Pama promised that Club BayanTel has more in store for its members in the coming months. Plans are already underway for cocktail events, a concert sponsorship, and another golf tournament before the end of the year.

"Of course, we will continue to connect with our customers by listening and being responsive to their needs and to be able to serve 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. But we believe that with these programs in place, our partnerships will continue to grow and develop."

Club BayanTel holds Summer carnival



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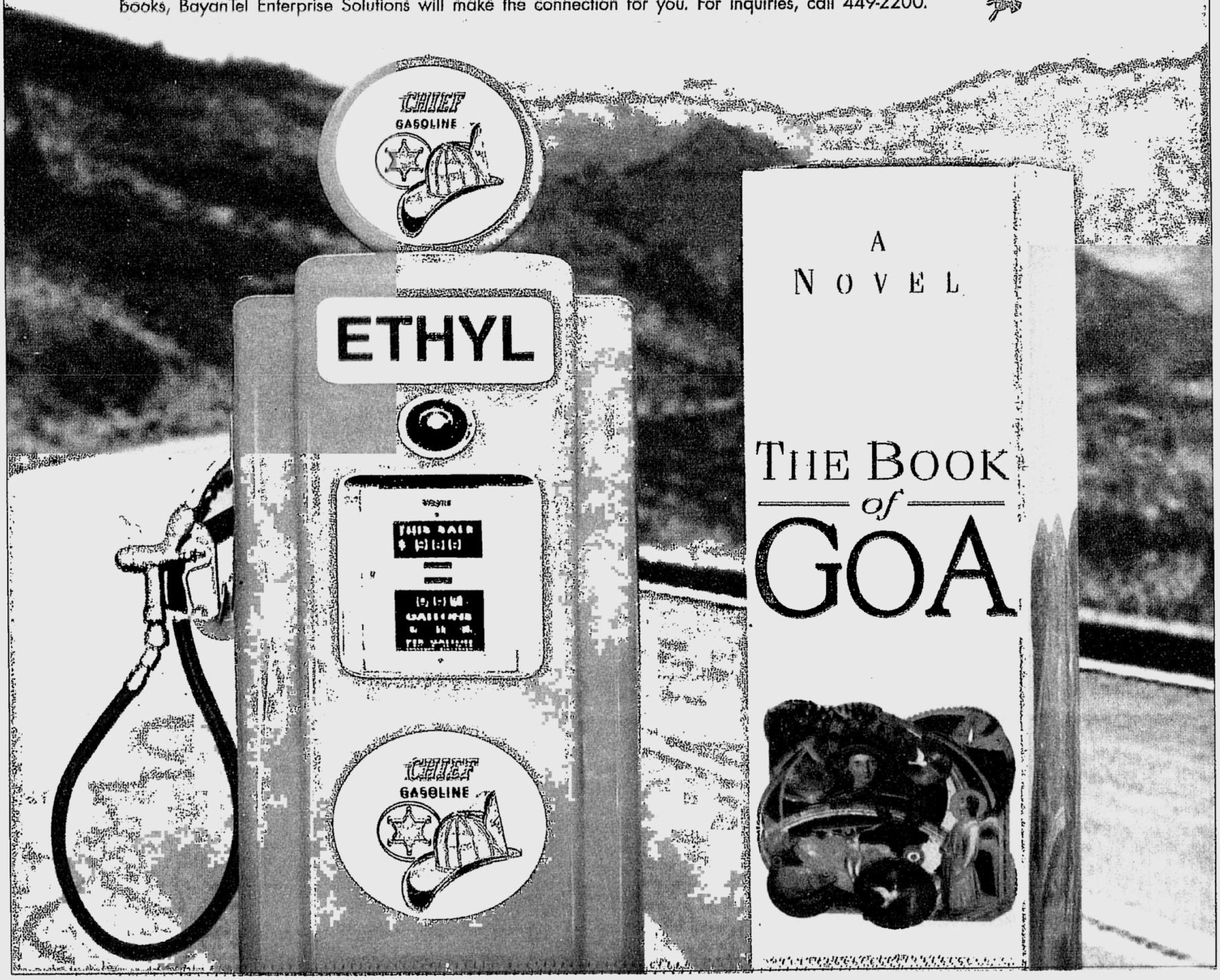

Gov't, Moro rebs to resume talks in KL next month

Story on PAGE A2

HE HE PATI SI KAMATAYAN NATAKASAN KO! HE HE HE

Al-Ghozi death wish still lingers

By TJ Burgonio

WAS it mere wishful thinking?

Yesterday morning, the Armed Forces said it may have killed In-

AL-GHOZI/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

BPI admits inactive Jose Pidal account

THE BANK of Philippine Islands has admitted that it once had a Jose Pidal account.

BPI vice president Zosimo Kabigting yesterday said the bank, in a letter dated Aug. 29, 2003 to the Senate blue ribbon committee, was able to trace a Jose Pidal account with the Perea branch of its subsidiary, BPI Family Bank, after obtaining

BPI/ A9

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, September 9, 2003 ★★ 44 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 273 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Iggy's silence irks senators

Mike A's brod invokes right to privacy

ALEX Carlos: Mahusay ignored his words of caution. JESS YUSON

By Christine O. Avendaño

INVOKING his right to privacy, Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo Jr. evaded most questions from senators about his financial capacity, businesses and the circumstances behind his opening of two bank accounts under the name of Jose Pidal.

"I am a private citizen and I invoke my right to privacy" was the standard reply of the younger brother of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo at the resumption yesterday of the Senate inquiry into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations that the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo was the owner of 12 bank accounts that contained at least P260 million.

It was Ignacio who came forward on Sept. 1 and claimed that he was Jose Pidal two weeks after Lacson accused the First Gentleman of using the alias to launder money.

But at the Senate hearing, Ignacio declined to answer many questions about the Jose Pidal accounts.

In a statement he read before the senators grilled him, he said he was invoking his right to privacy, "which cannot be invaded again without lawful order from the proper authority," because only the courts could compel banks to disclose suspicious bank accounts.

He said he was afraid the Senate inquiry "may result in a fishing expedition to elicit evidence from me, which evidence Senator Lacson does not have."

Ignacio challenged Lacson to prove the charges against him "before I be subjected to any interrogation or cross-examination by the distinguished members of the Senate."

Ignacio's tack drew the ire of the senators, particularly opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who accused him of "obstructing justice" and of "obstructing an

IGGY'S/ A16

IGNACIO Arroyo: I am protected by my constitutional right. JESS YUSON

Lawyer lectures senators on bank secrecy laws

By Michael Lim Ubac

THEY came to ask questions about the Jose Pidal accounts. Instead, senators yesterday got a lecture on banking laws from the chief legal counsel of Union Bank of the Philippines.

Lawyer Fe Macalinao stole the show in the Senate when she took it upon herself to remind senators that the very laws enacted by Congress were prohibiting her and other bank officials from revealing the transactions that went into the Pidal accounts.

She told senators that it was the "corporate culture of Union Bank of the Philippines, which all of its employees are proud of as a bank, that if it would spell a difference for our customers . . . we will keep and maintain confidentiality at all times."

Macalinao, also the acting president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, explained to the senators that the confidentiality of transactions was the "cornerstone of (the) banking business."

"While UBP is prepared to cooperate with government authorities, it is for this reason that we plead with you to observe the sacredness of this duty to customers," she said, adding: "Because it has been this institution, as the law-making body of the government of the Republic of the Philippines, that has thus

LAWYER/ A16

Businessman denies inciting Udong

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Christian V. Esguerra

EUGENIO "Udong" Mahusay's former employer claimed it was Mahusay who insisted on coming out with his allegations against his wedding sponsor, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

At the Senate hearing yesterday, businessman Alex Carlos denied he egged Mahusay into making up the story against the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Carlos said Mahusay ignored his words of caution because he was extremely mad at Arroyo, who accused him of stealing money and a cell phone.

"Udong was mad at Arroyo. I told him, 'You don't know what you're going into,'" Carlos said. "I felt responsible for him. He really wanted to exact revenge. I wanted to help him."

Carlos, who described himself as an agri-businessman, said that early this year, he brought Mahusay to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. "because he's a friend and a good lawyer."

Pimentel, according to Carlos, found Mahusay's story credible but found him to be a "weak witness" without corroborating documents.

Carlos said it was Allan Dy who

UDONG/ A16

Peso falls to 55.13 vs dollar

By Clarissa S. Batino, *Business*

AS THE Senate continued its hearings on the controversial Jose Pidal bank accounts, the peso quietly slipped to 55.13 against the US dollar, down 11 centavos from Friday's close.

Traders said the peso could again drop to 55.20 against the dollar if the Senate investigation of the Jose Pidal accounts, whose ownership opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson had attributed to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, would proceed without any clear direction.

"The market is so focused on the Pidal hearing and most got the impression that there was evasion on the part of the witnesses. This contributed to the market jitters alongside the rumors of a coup last week and other political issues," said a treasury official from a foreign bank.

At the Philippine Dealing System, the peso opened at a high of 55.04 and closed at its low of 55.13 to the dollar. Volume reached $75.5 million, indicating sluggish trading.

"Investors are on a wait-and-see attitude. While they stayed on the sidelines, dollar inflow remained scarce, making the peso weak even if demand for dollars was relatively slow yesterday," said a currency dealer.

The peso recently came uncomfortably close to its all-time low of 55.75 to the dollar in January 2001, but the local currency recovered early last week.

Traders said the peso could appreciate to 54.80 to the dollar, but they warned local currency could also de-

PESO/ A16

Anniversa
"Spreading the Win
d Braving the Od

VISITING Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra leads the ceremonial turnover of four OV-10 Bronco bombers of Thailand to the ill-equipped Philippine Air Force at Villamor Air Base. EDWIN BACASMAS

Thaksin advice: Think of next generation

By Michele V. Remo, *Business*

THINK of the next generation, not the next election.

Visiting Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday gave local businessmen this piece of advice when he spoke to them about how Thailand turned around its economy six years after it got battered in the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

In a forum at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City, Thaksin also urged the Filipino business community to support embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo amid opposition charges of corruption and money laundering against her husband.

To show just how prosperous Thailand had become, Thaksin later turned over to Ms Macapagal four surplus OV-10C Bronco planes, the Philippine Air Force's main air support weapon against Moro and communist rebels.

"A politician always thinks about the next election, while a statesman always thinks about the next generation. If you think of the next generation, then you can do a lot of change," the Thai prime minister told the business forum.

He praised Ms Macapagal as having "very strong leadership and courage," noting she was able to quell the July 27 military mutiny in less than a day.

Asked how Philippine businessmen could help spur economic development, Thaksin said "the business community must give her (Ms Macapagal) the moral support to do the right thing."

THAKSIN/ A16

GMA, media group slam Pala killing

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday condemned the killing of outspoken radio commentator Juan "Jun" Pala Jr., but said it was too early to speculate whether the act was politically motivated.

Pala, 49, a fiery critic of communist insurgents who were then active in Davao City in the 1980s, was gunned down by two unidentified men in the city's Vista Village on Saturday night while he was on his way from a card game to his house at the nearby Empress Subdivision.

An anchor of a morning program for Manila Broadcasting Corp.'s dzGO Aksyon Radyo for over a year, Pala was the sixth media person to be killed this year.

"I sympathize with the family of the slain radio commentator. I also share the concern of media organizations and practitioners over such incidents of violence against local media practitioners," the President said in a statement.

In Davao City, the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) yesterday clarified that while it condemned the killing, Pala was "not a hero for press freedom."

"His career in broadcasting was not exactly exemplary. He used the airwaves to harangue and harass his enemies, most of them political enemies," NUJP-Davao coordinator Carlos Conde said in a statement.

"We want to reiterate our position because some people are wondering why we seem to be making Jun Pala a press freedom hero," Conde said.

Text messages have been circulat-

GMA/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/09/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Gov't, Moro rebs to resume talks in KL next month

THE GOVERNMENT and the country's largest Muslim rebel group have agreed to resume formal peace negotiations in October to try to end a 31-year separatist war, both sides said yesterday.

"Peace is at hand," Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns, told a briefing for foreign journalists. "I am very optimistic."

Gonzales said the talks could resume around the time of a summit of the countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), set for Oct. 15 in Malaysia.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration has expressed hope of signing a peace deal with the MILF in time for US President George W. Bush's visit to Manila next month, but the rebels said that might be wishing for the moon.

"That is next to impossible," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told Reuters by telephone. "We are not governed by any deadline." Malaysia, a majority Muslim nation, will again host the peace negotiations after a two-year break marked by bombings on the southern island of Mindanao, which Manila blames on Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) militants.

Analysts say a peace pact with the MILF could renew investors' confidence in the Philippines, which has been shaken by decades of violence and rampant corruption. A mutiny by elite soldiers in July increased that uncertainty.

More than 120,000 people, mostly civilians, have died since Muslim militants launched a war for an independent homeland in the south of this overwhelmingly Roman Catholic nation in 1972.

Gonzales said an agreement to resume formal talks was reached in meetings in Kuala Lumpur at the weekend. Kabalu confirmed the rebels intended to return to the negotiating table.

In parallel talks last week in Cotabato City, panels from both sides agreed on steps to formalize and strengthen a ceasefire already in place.

No to independence

Gonzales said one reason for his optimism was that OIC countries—some of whom funded the rebels in the 1970s—now frowned on the separatist cause and that the MILF knew this.

"The OIC countries say that armed struggle can no longer be employed as a means for achieving societal or political change in any country," Gonzales said.

"I heard on several occasions the prime minister of Malaysia and the leader of Libya, Muammar Gaddafi, giving them (the MILF) a lecture that, definitely, no independence." Gonzales said formal talks would follow the arrival of a Malaysian-led international team of observers to ensure that both sides stick to the ceasefire on Mindanao.

He said the United States would be involved in the peace process by funding rehabilitation and development projects in war-ravaged areas, through a nongovernmental group.

Washington has earmarked $30 million for the projects, which could be launched even while the talks carry on.

"The MILF, the Philippine government and the Malaysians all welcome American participation," Gonzales said. *Reuters*

A NEW SARS outbreak tops the agenda of the World Health Organization's (WHO) 54th session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in Manila Monday.

EPA PHOTO/DENNIS SABANGAN

WHO warns of new SARS outbreak in Asia Pacific

By Blanche S. Rivera

PREPARE for a second outbreak of SARS later this year.

The new head of the World Health Organization yesterday urged all 37 member countries and territories in the Western Pacific Region to enhance their surveillance networks before the last quarter to detect the "likely" return of the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Lee Jong-wook is in Manila for the 54th session of the regional committee for the Western Pacific, which the WHO has dubbed as the "epicenter of the epidemic." The region accounted for 95.5 percent, or at least 8,000 of the 8,422 SARS cases around the world.

In his speech, Lee stressed: "When the cold and flu come back and many people come (down) with fever and coughing—that, with a mix of fear of SARS ... will (cause) a big confusion. Clearly a rapid diagnostic method ... is very important."

He admitted that it would take "many years" before a SARS vaccine is produced.

"It is too early for us to close the book on SARS," said Shigeru Omi, regional director for the Western Pacific region. The first onslaught "stretched the health systems in some member countries almost to breaking points," exposing many weaknesses, he added.

Hospitals even in developed countries were proven "fragile" and should therefore be improved to ensure their capability to withstand shocks and thus become more efficient, responsive and caring, Omi said.

In the most affected cities, he recalled, hospitals were perceived as centers of contagion, instead of places of healing. "This was a terrifying prospect for patients, health workers and public health authorities."

Omi was nominated for another five-year term by WHO members yesterday. Some 130 representatives of governments and nongovernment organizations—16 of them health ministers—were present during the session held at the WHO regional office on UN Avenue.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit announced that the Philippine government had allocated P1.5 million for each of the 16 regional hospitals to renovate isolation rooms for SARS patients. He said the hospitals had also stocked up on masks to ensure the safety of health workers.

Cooperation between the WHO regional officers and the member countries was "very critical" Lee said. "SARS is the first disease of the new millennium, but it is clearly not the last. We expect there will be many."

But while SARS attracted much attention, Lee said the greater challenges facing health workers across the globe were HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

The WHO estimates at least 1.2 million people in the region were infected with HIV—the virus that causes AIDS—by the end of last year, and that about 130,000 will have developed full-blown AIDS by 2005.

Meanwhile, the WHO regional office reported that some two million people in the region were believed to be infected with tuberculosis in 2001, with only 41 percent—or 811,263 cases—actually reported. *With a report from AP*

Should private car owners subsidize cost of diesel fuel?

SHOULD private vehicle owners pay more for their gasoline to subsidize the cost of diesel for public utility vehicles?

President Macapagal-Arroyo is studying such a proposal by bus operators.

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said she had instructed the Department of Energy to assess the possibility of raising gasoline prices to keep down the price of diesel, which is used mainly by public transport vehicles and delivery trucks.

"Diesel is the poor man's fuel and any support to keep its price down will have an impact on the cost of living," the President said. "All feasible means must be explored to alleviate the effect of oil price increases on the day-to-day lives of the most marginal sectors."

To start with, Ms Macapagal hopes the move will help convince transport groups not to pursue fare hikes.

She assured the public that the government's position on the issue would be based on social balance and fairness to all.

In a briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Department of Energy was set to present a list of recommendations that would give the President several options on how the proposal might be implemented, on top of discounts already being granted by oil firms to diesel buyers.

Bunye said the number of Metro Manila gas stations offering discounts of between 40 and 50 centavos per liter have increased by more than half to a total of 40 outlets in the last few days.

He said the President was also scheduled to meet tomorrow with local government unit officials to discuss ways of easing the impact of rising world crude oil prices on transport operators. *Gil Cabacungan*

Cotabato explosion kills man

By Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—A grenade exploded at a busy marketplace at 8:15 last night, killing one person and wounding 19 others, police said.

Supt. Peraco Macacua, city police director, said the hand grenade was placed by an unidentified inside the shoulder bag of a woman.

The woman appeared to have been quarreling with her male companion at that time, Macacua said, citing witnesses' accounts.

Chief Supt. Acmad Omar, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, identified the couple only as Munza and Snooky in his report, according to Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson.

Omar said the two were seen quarelling at the Cotabato Arcade at the old market on Bonifacio and Magallanes Streets.

The grenade went off after a man intentionally kicked the shoulder after it was thrown by the woman by the roadside, Macacua said.

A village guard, identified as Mastura Piang, said the woman was yelling that an unidentified man inserted the grenade in her bag.

Macacua said, a fish vendor, Teng Guiapar, 32, kicked the bag to prove that it contained a grenade. Guiapar suffered shrapnel wounds as a result of the explosion and is now in critical condition at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center.

The lone male fatality was still unidentified as of press time last night.

Mayor Muslimin Sema condemned those responsible for the explosion.

'Pogi' threat

TROPICAL Storm "Pogi" yesterday intensified with maximum sustained winds of 95 kph near the center and gustiness of 110 kph as it continued on its northwest direction toward Batanes.

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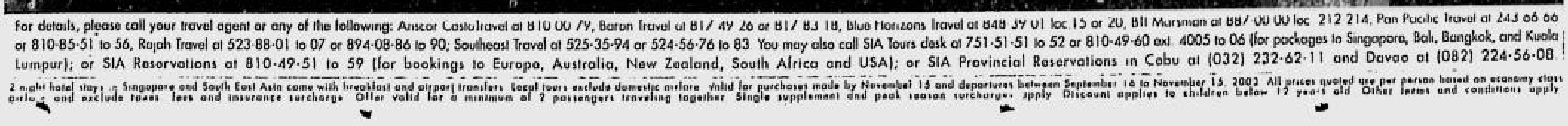

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GMA out of RP only for 4 days

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will take a hectic four-day trip to the United States and Europe this month, a trip that was shortened due to alleged destabilization threats against her administration.

According to a schedule released by her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, the President will go to New York, Rome and Paris from Sept. 26 to 30.

Ms Macapagal will leave Manila for New York City in the afternoon of Sept. 25. She is among several heads of state scheduled to address the 58th United Nations general assembly on Sept. 26.

Also in her itinerary is a meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, as well as with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, the International Board of Advisers and the Organization of Islamic Conference foreign ministers and ambassadors.

She will cap her one-day stay there with a dinner meeting hosted by the Filipino community in Jersey City.

That same evening, the President departs for Rome for an 11 a.m. audience with Pope John Paul II on Sept. 27 at the Apostolic Palace. She will meet with the Filipino community the following day.

In Paris, France, she will address the 32nd general conference of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization on Sept. 29 and witness the awarding of the title Unesco Artists for Peace on Earthsavers Dreams Ensemble, a group led by Cecile Guidote-Alvarez.

She will be back in Manila by 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 30, according to Bunye.

He did not say if First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo would accompany the President. *Juliet Labog-Javellana, with a report from AFP*

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Today's *What's News* questions:
1. Who has not been a Philippine president?
   a. Manuel Quezon
   b. Diosdado Macapagal
   c. Emilio Aguinaldo
   d. Raul Roco
2. What is the title of the country's national anthem?
   a. Bayang Magiliw
   b. Lupang Hinirang
   c. O Philippines!
   d. Viva Manila
3. Which recent typhoon was named after a boxer?
   a. Flash
   b. Onyok
   c. Tyson
   d. dela Hoya
4. Which team does soccer star David Beckham play for?
   a. Ginebra San Miguel
   b. Shell Turbo Chargers
   c. Real Madrid
   d. LA Lakers
5. Who is called the "Superstar"?
   a. Sharon Cuneta
   b. Kris Aquino
   c. Vilma Santos
   d. Nora Aunor

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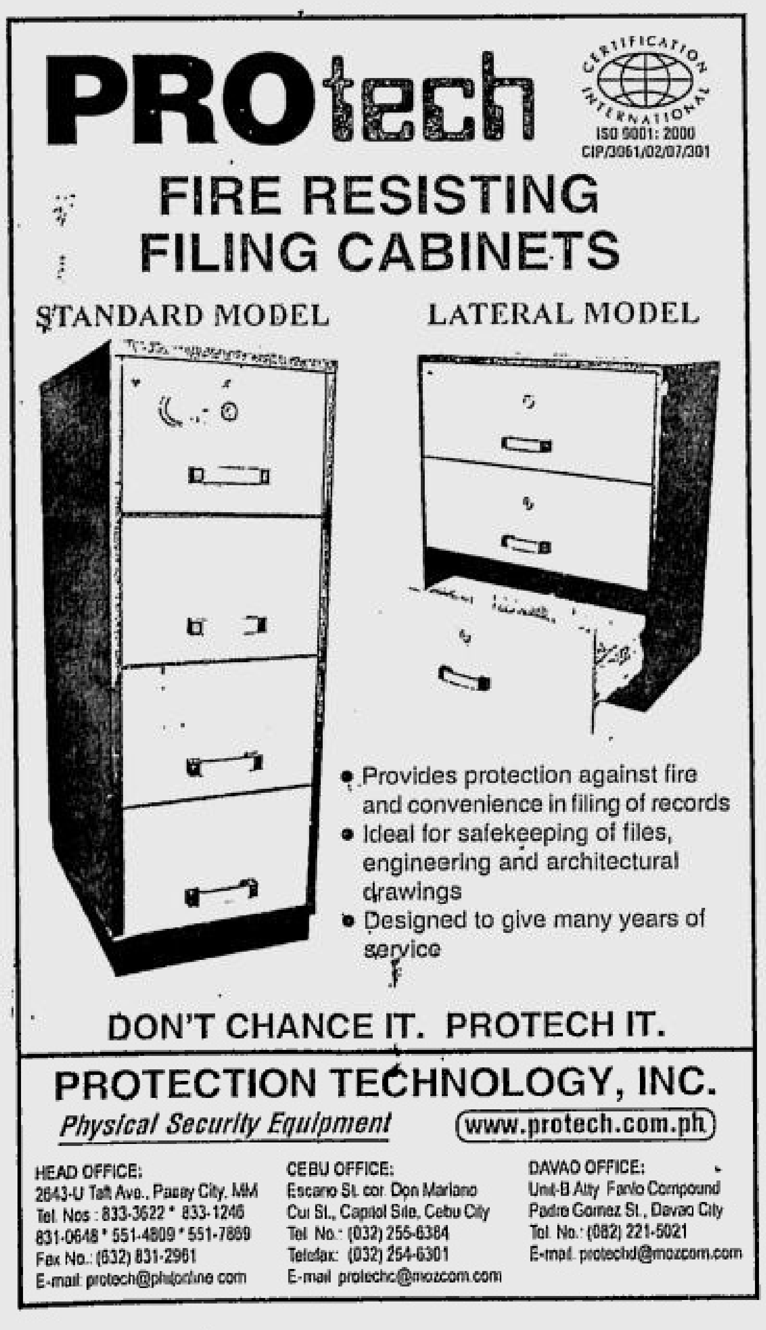
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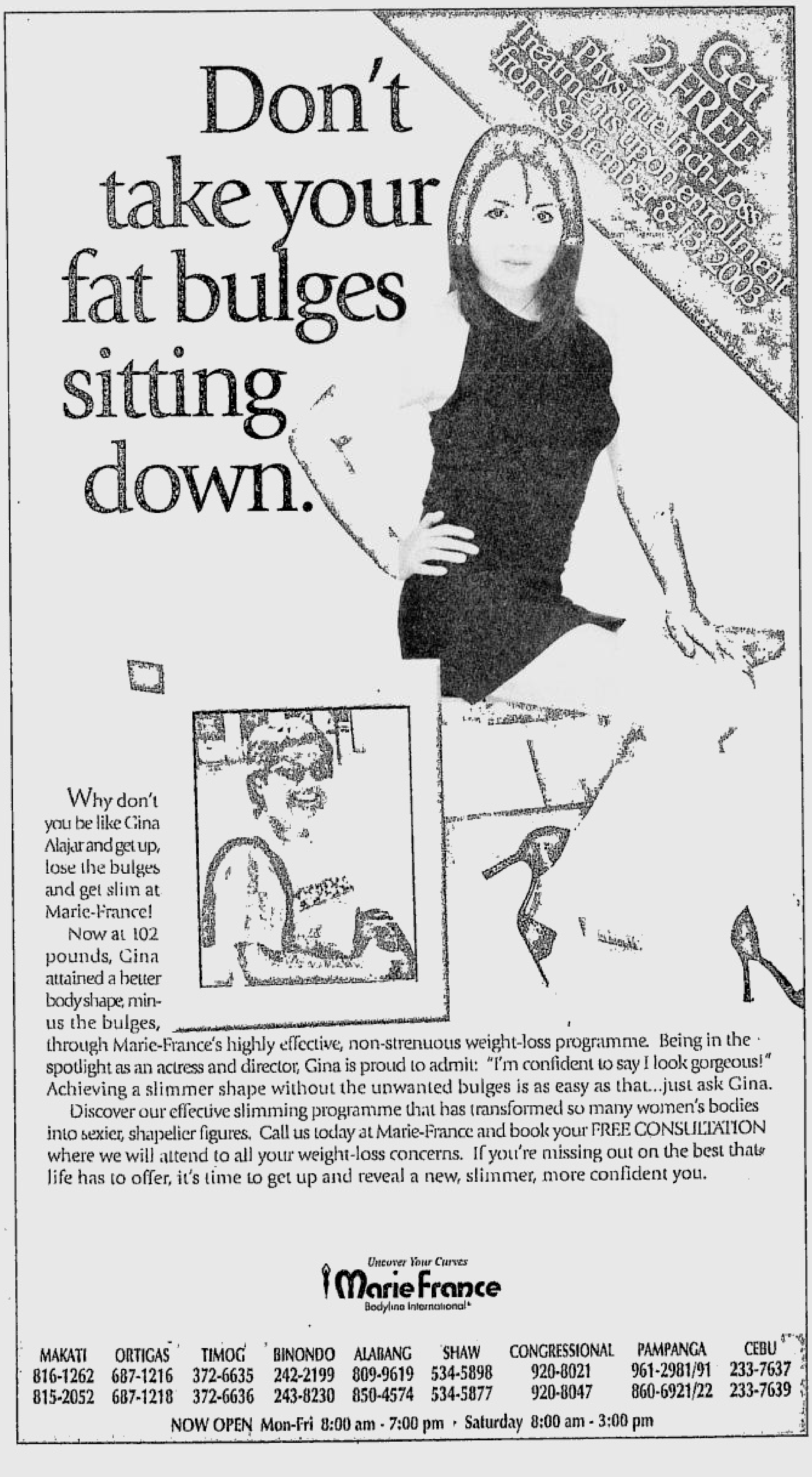
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RP to seek tariff concessions in Cancun meet

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES will adopt measures to protect local farmers in the event developing countries fail to obtain tariff and trade concessions during the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Cancun, Mexico this week.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the Philippines will push for agricultural trade reforms in the WTO talks.

"We are for downgrading subsidies by foreign governments to their own farmers and breaking down and dissolving barriers to products of the developing countries," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

These barriers include "quotas, health and sanitary regulations, technical obstacles and other clever tricks," "We aim to fight for our farmers and fisherfolk to the best we can, working in concert with the rest of the developing world," the President said.

The Philippines is a member of the Cairns Group of countries led by Australia which have been pushing for rich nations to open up their farm sectors to developing countries and end subsidies which they claim distort trade.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II will lead the Philippine delegation to the talks.

During the Cancun talks, the Philippines and other developing countries will push for the imposition of tariffs on items imported from developed countries that are equal to the trade-distorting domestic support measures and export subsidies the rich countries maintain.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said the Department of Agriculture is ready to adopt strong safety net measures to protect local agricultural products from unfair foreign competition should the Philippines and other developing countries fail to obtain the needed concessions.

"The DA is prepared to exercise its 'full flexibility' in protecting local farmers from unfair competition of foreign agricultural products that are highly subsidized by their governments," Lorenzo said.

Citing a news article, Lorenzo noted that the 30-member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development spent $311 billion in domestic agricultural subsidies.

"This is more than the combined gross domestic products (GDP) of all countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The unfair trade has impoverished and thrown out of work hundreds of millions of farmers in the developing world, including the Philippines," Lorenzo said.

He admitted though that the sugar industry receives tariff protection from the government.

Due to the country's commitment to the WTO, the Philippines' annual tariff collections fell by 39 percent to P59.5 billion in 2002 from P83 billion in 1997.

According to Lorenzo, the Philippine position has gained headway after some of the country's suggestions for the protection of Third World farmers were included in the talking points in the Cancun round this week.

"The efforts of the Philippine government along with other developing countries to obtain tariff concessions for their agricultural products appears to be gaining headway," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo said all 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have agreed to present a united front during the talks in the Cancun round.

Asean is home to 550 million people and is the world's fourth largest economic bloc after the United States, European Union and Japan.

Lorenzo blamed the lack of government funds, rampant smuggling and trade distortions, such as sanitary and quarantine measures imposed by other countries, as among the causes of the financial troubles faced by the local agricultural sector in competing in the domestic and international market.

The Philippines also advocates the exclusive use by developing countries of the special agricultural safeguard (SAG) as a special safeguard mechanism (SSM) designed to protect developing countries from unfair competition from rich nations. In addition, the Philippines wants developing countries to be granted the right to adopt the strategic products concept (SP) whereby only minimal tariff reductions shall be allowed for selected products that are important to the food security and livelihood of rural residents and to rural development.

Under the proposed SSM, the Philippines can impose additional special tariffs to protect local industries threatened by the influx of cheap products from the developed countries that maintain large subsidies to the detriment of the developing nations. *With AFP report*

Comelec blames NGOs for low voter turnout

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday blamed nongovernment organizations (NGOs) for the low turnout in the ongoing registration of absentee voters in Philippine embassies and consular offices abroad.

"We were relying mostly on NGOs who were here when we were (discussing) this (absentee voting) bill..." Comelec chair Bejamin Abalos said in a radio interview.

Abalos said that these NGOs earlier pledged to launch an information campaign on absentee voting to familiarize Filipinos living abroad on the registration proceedings and requirements.

He said that now that the Absentee Voting Law has been approved, the NGOs are asking for funds to finance an information campaign." We don't have funds," Abalos lamented.

The Comelec, he said, will have to appeal to the families of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to contact their relatives and friends and tell them to register for the coming polls.

"They might make the difference," Abalos said.

The Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003, signed into law in February this year, allows Filipino citizens who are permanent residents in other countries to cast absentee votes in the Philippines. The law, however, requires them to execute an affidavit pledging to return to the Philippines and permanently reside in the country within three years from the time of registration..

Under the absentee voting law, overseas Filipinos must personally register and cast their ballots at the Philippine embassy or consulate in the country where they reside.

The registration for absentee voters started on Aug. 1 and will end on Sept. 30.

According to Abalos, the Comelec entrusted their flyers and other information materials to the NGOs.

"Flyers entrusted to some NGOs abroad, (some information materials were published in) some local papers," he said. In one case, he said, they were being charged $25,000 in Canada for the printing of the implementing rules and regulations, so they had to resort to "other newspapers or other media."

"We don't know if it served their purpose," Abalos said.

A month after the registration started, so far, only 93,000 out of the estimated 8 million qualified Filipino absentee voters worldwide have registered in Philippine embassies and consular offices abroad.

The Comelec targets 2.5 million Filipinos to register as absentee voters worldwide for the May 2004 elections.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 9, 2003
23rd Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Col 2:6-15
Gospel: Lk 6:12-19

Jesus went out into the hills to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God. When day came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James, son of Alpheus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas, son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who would be the traitor.

Coming down the hill with them, Jesus stood on a level place. Many of his disciples were there and a large crowd of people who had come from all parts of Judea and Jerusalem and from the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon. They gathered to hear him and be healed of their diseases; likewise people troubled by evil spirits were healed. The entire crowd tried to touch him because of the power that went out from him and healed them all.

Commentary

"The whole night he spent in prayer with God." We see a clear pattern in the lifestyle of Jesus. He spent a great time in prayer before major decisions and events in his life. We see this at the beginning of his public ministry—he spent 40 days in prayer and fasting in the desert. Jesus went up the hill with Peter, John and James; while he was praying, he was transfigured. Before the passion and death on Good Friday, Jesus spent time praying at the Garden of Gethsemani. For Jesus, prayer is an essential dimension of his life. In prayer, the Father shows him the way and gives him the strength to carry on his mission. Where do we draw our strength to face the tasks and challenges before us?

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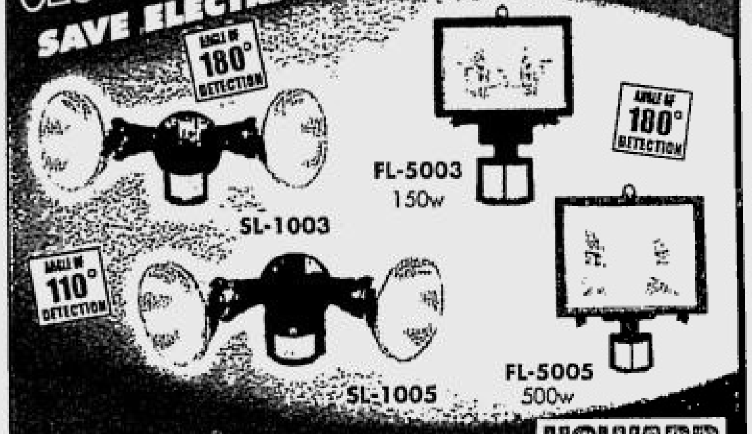

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'OAKWOOD 6'

Trillanes et al. hire Demetriou

By TJ Burgonio

GUESS who's joining the six alleged mutiny leaders' battery of lawyers? And guess who's out?

Harriet Demetriou, a retired trial court and Sandiganbayan judge, has agreed to act as co-lead counsel for Lieutenants Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, and Captains Milo Maestrecampo, Gerardo Gambala, Gary Alejano and Nicanor Faeldon.

The officers are facing charges in civilian and military courts for the failed uprising on July 27.

Demetriou said she was hired early last week as Roel Pulido's co-lead counsel for the pre-trial investigation and the court martial proceedings.

"I was engaged by the group of Trillanes through his mother, Estrellita," she said.

She hinted at some personal reasons for accepting the job, among them the fact that the elder Trillanes was a provincemate from Albay.

Until Demetriou's appearance, the team of lawyers representing the alleged mutiny leaders was headed by Homobono Adaza.

"I think Atty. (Homobono) Adaza is co-lead counsel in the coup d'etat case pending before the Makati regional trial court," she said in a phone interview. "I have nothing to do with that."

Adaza welcomed Harriet Demetriou into the defense team, saying, "the more, the merrier."

Also in a phone interview, he said that if his clients decided to drop him altogether, "that would be okay with me."

Demetriou appeared for the six officers for the first time in Camp Aguinaldo last Friday, at the preliminary investigation of the coup charges filed against them by the justice department.

On the same day, she wrote Brig. Gen. Mariano Sarmiento, judge advocate general, to ask for copies of the affidavits of other enlisted men submitted to the pre-trial probe.

Demetriou shot to prominence in 1995 when she convicted former Mayor Antonio Sanchez of Calauan, Laguna, to double life imprisonment for the rape-slay of Eileen Sarmenta and the killing of Allan Gomez in 1993.

She also the counsel for Katherine "Kaye" Torres, daughter of murdered actress Nida Blanca.

Honasan 'surfaces' at Senate

"I AM still around." This was perhaps what opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan's message when he suddenly showed up at the Senate yesterday.

Honasan surprised reporters because he had not been attending Senate sessions since he surfaced on Aug. 27.

Honasan had enjoyed massive publicity despite being "inaccessible" after he was implicated in the July 27 failed Oakwood mutiny and subsequently went into hiding. *Michael Lim Ubac*

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ISANG BUKAS NA LIHAM KAY PANGULONG GLORIA-MACAPAGAL ARROYO

MADAM PRESIDENT ARROYO:

SA KABILA NG INYONG MAGANDANG HANGARIN NA MABIGYAN NG MAAYOS NA MAPAGLILIPATAN AMG MGA SQUATTERS NA AALISIN SA METRO MANILA, BUONG PITAGAN PO NAMING INIHAHAYAG NA ANG MGA MAMAMAYAN NG BAYAN NG CABUYAO, LAGUNA AY MAHIGPIT NA TUMUTUTOL NA GAWING RELOCATION SITE ANG BAYAN NG CABUYAO, SA MGA DAHILANG SUMUSUNOD:

1. IPINATUTUPAD NG PAMAHALAANG BAYAN NG CABUYAO ANG PAMBAYANG KAUTUSAN BILANG 2003-061 NA "NAGBABAWAL SA MGA INFORMAL SETTLERS NA HINDI TAGA-CABUYAO NA LUMIPAT O TUMIGIL SA BAYAN NG CABUYAO SA ANUMANG ISASAGAWANG PABAHAY SA ILALIM NG PROYEKTONG NASYONAL";
2. ANG PLANONG GAWING RELOCATION SITE ANG CABUYAO PARA SA MGA SQUATTERS NG METRO MANILA AY HINDI DUMAAN SA WASTONG PROSESO AT LABAG SA ISINASAAD NG RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991:

   - *ART. 54. MANDATORY CONSULTATIONS - (A) ALL NGA'S SHALL CONDUCT PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE LGU'S PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS AND OTHER CONCERNED SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY BEFORE ANY PROJECT OR PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS.*
   - *ART. 55. COORDINATIONS WITH LGUS. (A) NGA'S WITH PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION FUNCTIONS SHALL COORDINATE WITH ONE ANOTHER ANF WITH LGUS CONCERNED IN THE DISCHARGE OF THESE FUNCTIONS. THEY SHALL ENSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF LGUS BOTH IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SAID NATIONAL PROJECTS.*

3. HINDI MAKAKAYANAN NG PAMAHALAANG BAYAN NG CABUYAO ANG PAGDAGSA NG MGA SQUATTER SA AMING BAYAN DAHIL ITO AY MAKAKAPAGDULOT NG IBAYONG PASANIN SA PAGHAHATID NG SERBISYO SA LARANGAN NG KALINISAN, KAAYUSAN, KAPAYAPAAN AT PANGKALAHATANG KALAGAYANG PANLIPUNAN;
4. ANG BAYAN NG CABUYAO AY MAY SARILING SULIRANIN HINGGIL SA MGA SQUATTER SA MGA TABING RILES AT ILOG NA DAPAT HARAPIN AT RESOLBAHIN;
5. SA KASALUKUYAN, ANG OPORTUNIDAD SA KABUHAYAN NG MGA MAMAMAYAN SA BAYAN NG CABUYAO AY PATULOY NA NABAWASAN DAHIL SA PAG-ALIS AT PAGSASARA NG MGA INDUSTRIYA AT BAHAY-KALAKAL DULOT NG KRISIS PANG-EKONOMIYA NA KINAKAHARAP NG BUONG BANSA; AT
6. ANG MGA TAGA-CABUYAO, LALO'T HIGIT ANG MGA MARALITANG MAMAMAYAN, KABILANG ANG MGA PANGKARANIWANG MANGGAGAWA AT KAWANI NG MGA KASAPI NG SSS, GSIS AT IBA PA, NA DAPAT NA MABIGYAN NG PROTEKSIYON AT PRAYORIDAD UPANG MAGKAROON NG PAGKAKATAONG MAKAPAG-ARI NG SARILING TAHANAN AY MAHAHADLANGAN.

DAHIL DITO, AYAW NAMING MARANASAN ANG LUBUSANG PAGHIHIRAP NA IBUBUNGA NG BIGLANG PAGDAMI NG MGA MANINIRAHAN SA AMING MALIIT NA BAYAN KUNG KAYA'T NAIS NAMING BIGYAN NINYO NG KARAMPATAN AT HIGIT NA PAG-AARAL BAGO NINYO ISAKATUPARAN ANG INYONG BALAK NA GAWING RELOCATION SITE PARA SA SQUATTERS NG METRO MANILA ANG AMING BAYAN.

"TUTOL KAMI NA I-RELOCATE ANG MGA SQUATTERS NG METRO MANILA SA AMING BAYAN NG CABUYAO"

"PIGILIN ANG NAPIPINTONG PAGHIHIRAP NG MGA MAMAMAYAN DAHIL SA PLANONG RELOKASYON NG MGA SQUATTERS SA CABUYAO"

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Punombayan

ISIDRO L. HEMEDES, JR.
Pangalawang Punombayan

JOSE BENSON G. AGUILLO
Konsehal

JOSE G. ALCABASA, JR.
Konsehal

LOPE J. DIAMANTE, JR.
Konsehal

JOSE M. LAVIÑA
Konsehal

ERNANI J. DELFINADO
Konsehal

9-2-2003

PHILIP R. RODRIGUEZ
Konsehal

ATTY. ROMMEL A. GECOLEA
Konsehal

EDUARDO M. ALVIAR
Konsehal

DR. BENJAMIN C. DEL ROSARIO
ABC President

PETE C. CANCERAN
Municipal Administrator

FELIX L. GALANG JR.
Municipal Accountant

ELENA A. ESTALILLA
Municipal Treasurer

MARCELINA B. MARAÑA
Municipal Budget Officer

CATALINA A. SUMAYA
Municipal Assessor

ATTY. JOAQUIN DELOS SANTOS
MPDC

MARISSA SALAZAR
Local Civil Registrar

1.90/03

ENGR. EVELYN L. HATULAN
Municipal Engineer

DR. ELENA DIAMANTE
Rural Health Unit-I Officer

FE EVELYN L. PARALA
MSWD Officer

BENJAMIN BELLA
Municipal Security Officer

CARMELITA ELOMINA
HRMO

Herminia Q. Arcelo
HERMINIA Q. ARCELO
MLGOOV-DILG

GIL DEDICATORIA
Punong Barangay, Barangay Uno

ROMEO GARDON
Punong Barangay, Barangay Tres

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Punong Barangay, Barangay Banaybanay

ODILON I. CAPARAS
Punong Barangay, Barangay Pulo

POLICARPO ALGIRE
Punong Barangay, Barangay San Isidro

LAMBERTO MANZANO
Punong Barangay, Barangay Banlic

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Punong Barangay, Barangay Mamatid

MAMERTO POBLETE
Punong Barangay, Barangay Baclaran

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CARLOS ALCANTARA
Punong Barangay, Barangay Pittland

ENGR. MANOLITO BARUNDIA
Municipal Building Official

REV. FR. EDGAR R. CONSIGNADO
St. Polycarp Parish Priest

ENRIQUE A. PINEDA
President
Cabuyao PTA Federation

VICENTE MARASIGAN
President, TODA Federation of Cabuyao
President, POSANTODA

LEONARDO STO. TOMAS
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St. Polycarp Parish, Cabuyao, Laguna

ERLINDA CALONGCALONG
President
KABABAIHANG KAISA SA KAUNLARAN AT KAPAKANAN NG CABUYAO
(KAISAKAPA-CABUYAO)

ADVT

GMA, media group slam Pala killing

From page A1

ing within the local media community, questioning the circumstances behind the killing.

Conde said he received text messages from "friends in the media" criticizing the NUJP for an earlier statement that Pala's death only bolstered the idea that people who dare to speak out are fair game.

"We have to be clear about the issue. As far as we are concerned, it's not just about Jun Pala but it could be anybody else," Conde said.

"While we are concerned about Pala's questionable practice, the fact that he was silenced because of his radio program ... Do we have to wait before an upright journalist is killed before we protest?" he said.

Pala survived two assassination attempts on June 14, 2001 and last April 29. He was wounded in both incidents, and had said politics lay behind the incidents.

A staunch supporter of the anticommunist vigilante group Alsa Masa in the 1980s, he had assailed politicians in recent years for alleged corruption.

Press freedom

Ms Macapagal said she could not "discount an attempt to stifle press freedom, which would be condemnable" as one of the motives for the killing.

"But I do not wish to speculate on any motives or suspects and I leave the PNP (national police) to conduct an in-depth probe into this crime in order to bring the perpetrators to justice," she said.

Her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said Pala's slaying was a big blow to press freedom, but he denied that there was a pattern of assassination against media practitioners. At least 41 journalists have been killed in the Philippines since democracy was restored in 1986, international press bodies have said.

"We uphold and value the freedom of the press," Bunye said.

The PNP yesterday said it was still early to implicate Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte in the killing of Pala.

"We need to have evidence, but as of now the PNP has no holdings," Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP spokesperson, told reporters.

De Leon admitted that Duterte was naturally perceived as the mastermind because the victim was a fierce critic of the mayor.

The killing, he said, was most likely deeply rooted because there had been two attempts at his life before he was gunned down on Saturday.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco promised to help in the investigation should the police ask for it.

Wycoco said he had volunteered to help Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña, regional police director, gather more information about the murder.

NPA hand?

De Leon said investigators were also looking into the possibility that members of the communist New People's Army were the perpetrators.

"At the height of his notoriety. Mr. Pala, in the guise of protecting us from the Communists, allowed himself to be used by the military by becoming the spokesperson of the vigilante group Alsa Masa. How many Filipinos died or suffered because of Mr. Pala's misguided, brutal and fascistic crusade?" Conde said.

He also noted that Pala's life as a broadcast journalist was "one of ethical compromises."

"He is not a paragon of journalistic virtue. He should not be emulated by aspiring journalists. The NUJP does not see it fit to put him on the same pedestal occupied by the other martyred but illustrious journalists," he said.

But Conde said although Pala "may have been corrupt, he may have entered into questionable deals and incurred political enemies, but it was obvious that he was killed because he kept on broadcasting."

"If he didn't have a radio program, it is very likely that he would still be alive today. In this sense, his death is a blow to press freedom, no matter that Mr. Pala may have abused this very freedom. Nobody should die for speaking out his mind," Conde said.

Pala's widow Louise said she saw no justice for her husband.

"I'm not interested in filing a case against those behind the killing because I don't see any hope in getting justice," she said. "It's better that I leave all these to God."

Louise said she had not heard from the police about what happened to the investigation of the earlier attempts on her husband's life.

On the day he was killed, Pala had attacked Duterte on his radio program and had even dared the mayor to order his men and attack the broadcaster's house.

He had pressed Duterte to answer allegations that he supplied ammunition and money to the NPA when he was still a congressman in 2000.

Duterte, in his television program on Sunday, said he refused to issue a statement on Pala's death. "Pala is dead. *Tapos na ang istorya ng buhay n'ya* (His life story already ended). No comment," he said.

Death threats

Pala's radio station manager, Raul Antupuesto, said he had been receiving death threats through his mobile phone after reporting about alleged corruption in the provincial government of Davao Oriental.

Antupuesto had accused Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil and her daughter, provincial board member daughter Maria Consuelo, of maintaining "ghost employees."

"I am now arming myself for my protection after I received several death threats. My lawyer in the case I filed against the Palma Gils had already deserted me after he received several death threats," he said.

The governor has denied accusations that she was behind the death threats. "I don't like violence," she said.

Palma Gil said she already filed a P50-million libel case against Antupuesto, "so we should fight there in the legal arena." *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Christian V. Esguerra and Leila B. Salaverria; and Anthony S. Allada, Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP*

Al-Ghozi death wish . . .

From page A1

donesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi in Sultan Kudarat on Sunday night. In the afternoon, however, the AFP had to swallow its pride and lower the expectations it had itself raised.

"We suspect it's Al-Ghozi, but we have to check," Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, 6th Infantry Division commander, told a Mindanao radio station in the morning. "Al-Ghozi has fingerprints and dental records with the PNP, so it's easy to check."

A local reporter, who was stopped from entering a military hospital at the 6th ID base on Sunday evening, told Reuters that people who had seen the body believed it was Al-Ghozi.

"One of his eyes is popped out. His face is bloated," the reporter said he had been told by a source who was allowed inside the hospital. "He was really riddled with bullets."

When Al-Ghozi's fingerprints in the police files were compared to those of the dead man, however, there was a mismatch.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, confirmed that a member of a heavily armed group was killed in a firefight with troops from the 6th Infantry Division, but said it was not Al-Ghozi.

"(The dead) resembles Al-Ghozi. However, after verification, it (was established) that it was not him," he told reporters, citing that the slain man's fingerprints did not match those of Al-Ghozi's.

As of presstime, the military had not established the identity of the slain man or his group affiliation.

Senga said Al-Ghozi's "personal files" provided by Camp Crame gave the AFP the information it needed.

Heavily armed men

Citing reports from Southcom headquarters, Lucero said members of the 6th ID's Reconnaissance Company ran into a group of 20 heavily armed men in Barangay Ragisi at around 7:45 p.m. on Sunday.

During a 10-minute gunfight, he said, one of the armed men was shot and killed, and the others withdrew in different directions.

The troops were patrolling the area in search of the group of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani, who was reported to have fled Pilas island in Basilan for Palembang in Sultan Kudarat last June.

Last week, Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling said the military would have a "breakthrough" in the hunt for Al-Ghozi in a week, hinting that it had "solid leads" on his whereabouts.

"We have leads, and hopefully, within the week, we have good news. We should just wait," Camiling, a former 6th ID commander, said in a press briefing.

A senior police official, who asked not to be named, had said Al-Ghozi had been monitored to be "moving around" camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is suspected of having ties to the Jemaah Islamiyah.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu flatly denied this, and maintained that the group would hand him over to the authorities if ever he strayed into one of their camps.

Al-Ghozi, who bolted from police headquarters in Camp Crame in Quezon City on July 14 together with two suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits, was last sighted in Kabuntalan town in Maguindanao.

The JI bomb-maker carries a P10-million prize on his dead.

Al-Ghozi, who had confessed to funding and masterminding the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed 22 people, was sentenced last year to 12 years in prison for illegal possession of a cache of explosives and firearms.

His fellow escapee, Abdulmukim Ong Edris, was killed in an alleged shootout with his military captors in Lanao del Norte on Aug. 7, while the other escapee, Omar Opik Lasal, remained at large.

New leads

The authorities said yesterday they have obtained leads and intensified a hunt for Al-Ghozi.

"There are indications on his whereabouts, but we don't want to preempt the operations," police director Ricardo de Leon said, without elaborating.

A separate military search was under way on the southern Zamboanga peninsula, military sources said.

Intelligence agencies suspect Al-Ghozi's hand in planned and actual attacks elsewhere in the region. *With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP, Reuters, AFP*

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A TIME TO REFLECT
Part 4

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

There was tremendous response to the ad " A Time to Reflect - Part 3" as it voiced the sentiment of our people, who call for statesmanship on the part of our leaders in the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches of government.

The contents of the over 100 text messages received was alarming. The consensus was the loss of faith and confidence in our democratic institutions.

Again, we would like to emphasize that our democratic institutions are breaking down and this has hurt the Congress, the House, the Judiciary, and the Administration. Unless partisan politics is stopped, we are headed towards anarchy.

We are urging the Senate to conduct hearings on the cases of graft and corruption in executive sessions, behind closed doors. When the Congress or Senate hearings are completed and charges filed in court, **the hearings should, then, be open to full media coverage and transparency.**

Lastly, we are appealing to our people to unite, not lose hope, defend our democratic institutions, and continue to pray for the enlightenment of our leaders.

SEPTEMBER OIL PRICE UPDATE

GOOD NEWS

The good news as of Sept. 4th is that the average price of Dubai crude went down by $1.02 per barrel compared to August (Sept. 4th $26.64 vs. Aug. $27.66) and the peso appreciated by 14 centavos (Sept. 4th P54.87 vs. Aug. P55.01).

If this trend continues for the rest of the month and if the OPEC meeting this month results in an increase in production, then, the outlook of a no oil price increase or, maybe, even a roll back is more optimistic.

BAD NEWS

The bad news is that the price this month is projected to increase by an average of 75 centavos per liter. This is primarily due to the compliance with the Clean Air Act on gasoline and diesel, where the oil refineries will have to import 30% blended gasoline and diesel from the region (MOPS-Singapore) and mix these with their local production of 70% Dubai crude.

On the other hand, the new players, who import 100% of their gasoline and diesel requirements, should have an average increase of P1.34. However, in order to be competitive, the new players have to follow the pricing of the big three or source locally from the big three, if sourcing locally will be cheaper than to import.

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

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In Defense of DEMOCRACY

A manifesto of the Coalition for the Advancement of the Promises of Edsa

OUR DEMOCRACY, even if imperfect, is in grave danger.

During the past few weeks, shadowy forces have intensified their efforts to undermine the democratic institutions we have tried as a people to nurture as way back as when we toppled a dictatorship in the historic Edsa Revolution of 1986. Edsa I restored democracy over our land. And without most of us realizing, our massing up at Edsa in 1986 also frustrated an elaborate militarist scheme in the form of a coup d'etat that would have installed a military junta in place of Marcos.

The truth is, the militarists who had grudgingly obliged to civilian supremacy after Edsa I never really gave up. They immediately took advantage of the fragility of the situation shortly after the fall of Marcos to mount seven bloody coup attempts, all of which failed.

Now, 17 years after, it appears the putchists never gave up their ambitions of ruling over our lives through a military junta – as military juntas and dictatorships in the world have crumbled. Investigations being conducted on the so-called Oakwood Mutiny supposedly led by young military officers point to the same people whose ambitions to rule our country were waylaid by the people during Edsa I. These were the same people who mounted the seven coup attempts against the Aquino administration, and instigated the pathetic power grab attempt against the current administration on July 27, 2003.

Quite clearly, the militarists are still at it, even as they are in tactical alliances with interests whose political agenda fit theirs.

WE ASK OUR PEOPLE, SHOULD WE ALLOW A MILITARY JUNTA TO RULE OVER US?

On the other hand, we should not deny that the administrations we have installed and voted to power since 1986 have not really delivered on the people's expectations. Poverty and corruption persist. In fact, we had to return to Edsa in 2001 to confront corruption and ineptitude at the highest levels.

We, at the Coalition for the Advancement of the Promises of Edsa (CARE), cannot accept, and shall never allow, that a military junta or the return of Joseph Estrada, could solve our problems. Such prescriptions could only lead us to greater national perdition.

That is why CARE, whose members come mostly from the people of Central Luzon, again went to Edsa on September 3, 2003, amidst persistent reports of destabilization efforts against the government, to strongly register our opposition to militarism and to efforts at destroying and derailing our democratic processes, though imperfect.

We cannot be mere spectators to the political marionette and sideshows that reduced our legislative institutions into theaters of the absurd. Like the disgusting spectacle now showing at the Philippine Senate, where the legacy of such political giants of past Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada, Jose W. Diokno, Jovito Salonga, Benigno Aquino, and others seems to have been forgotten; and where headline-grabbing stunts are becoming more important than legislative work.

That is also why CARE — while coming to the defense of our democratic institutions, including the Presidency — is reminding the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that genuinely working for the interest of the people is the best antidote to any threat of destabilization. A satisfied citizenry will certainly say no to any destabilization move, and will reject the power-grabbing demagogues.

CARE expresses optimism when, after our September 3 rally at the Edsa Monument, other civil society and democratic cause oriented organizations have also made their moves toward organizing a citizens' phalanx against anti-democratic forces out to seize the reins of power. CARE and the people of Central Luzon are most willing to link arms with all groups in defense of our democracy.

NO TO MILITARY JUNTA, YES TO DEMOCRACY!
ADVANCE THE PROMISES OF EDSA TOWARD GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PROGRESS!

COALITION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE PROMISES OF EDSA (CARE)

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Mayor Boking Morales – Pres., Pampanga Mayors League
Rep. Oscar Rodriguez - 3rd District, Pmpanga
Com. Andrea Domingo – Bureau of Immigration and Deportation
Atty. Edgardo D. Pamintuan – Gen. Manager, National Housing Authority
Rep. Francisco Nepomuceno Jr. - 1st District Pampanga
Rep. Zeny Ducut - 2nd District Pampanga

Mayor Carmelo Lazatin – Angeles City
Alex Cauguiran – City Councilor Angeles City, Convenor and Spokesman CARE
Mark Lapid — Pres. Federation of Barangay Captains of Pampanga
Bong Alvaro – Majority Floor Leader, Sangguniang Panglunsod, Angeles City
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Vice Mayor Joey Baluyut - Concepcion, Tarlac
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Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles - President Clark Development Corporation
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Rosemarie Hererra – Convenor, Central Luzon Federalist Movement
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Nestor Esteban – Executive Director, Assistance Development Assocition of Pampanga
Antonio Salenga – Publisher, Pampanga News
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Willy Ong - - Pres . Angeles Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Inc.
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Rolly Francisco — Pres., Federation of PTA Association of Angeles City

Advt.

No Toh accounts in 2 banks, lawyer claims

By Alcuin Papa

THE TWO banks, which Sen. Panfilo Lacson claimed held accounts of Victoria and Thomas Toh had issued certifications that the siblings had no accounts under their name, their lawyer said on Sunday.

Lacson claims that the Tohs maintained dummy accounts for First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, whom the senator accused of laundering at least P260 million.

At a press conference in his Makati office, lawyer Gelacio Mamaril told reporters that Unionbank and Banco de Oro issued him certifications, both dated Sept. 5, stating that the bank accounts detailed by Lacson in his privileged speech did not exist.

In his certification, Banco de Oro president Nestor Tan wrote Mamaril that a P19,531,000 deposit under Account No. 00218008731 purportedly owned by Victoria Toh was nonexistent.

"We certify that based on records available to us and to the best of our knowledge, the above-described account does not exist," Tan said.

In the case of Unionbank, Teodoro Panganiban, its executive vice president, told Mamaril that a joint account under the name "Jose Pidal and/or Victoria Toh" was also nonexistent.

"Upon verification with our records, please be informed that there is no account opened at Union Bank of the Philippines in the joint name of Jose Pidal and/or Victoria Toh," Panganiban said.

Mamaril explained that the certifications covered all the branches of the two banks.

He also said he wrote the request letters on Sept. 5 in which his clients "waived their rights under the Bank Secrecy law to allow the banks to release to us the information to refute Senator Lacson's untruthful assertions."

"The replies we received carry the weight of the respective financial institutions in effectively debunking Senator Lacson's malicious allegations, which we hope our people and the Senate will accept as being the truthful and impartial submissions which they are," Mamaril told reporters.

The lawyer said he was expecting the same response from three other banks—Philam Bank, Allied Bank and Metrobank.

BPI admits 'inactive' . . .

From page A1

more accurate information on the account.

BPI made the admission in a press statement a day after Lito Banayo, spokesperson of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, presented to the media a photocopy of a BPI Family Bank check issued by a Jose Pidal on May 4, 1998. The check for P85,000 from Account No. 661-5-00497-7 was issued by Pidal to "Cash and/or Alfredo Fornacio."

Kabigting, head of the legal department, said the account was opened in late 1997 and was transferred to the main branch when the Perea branch in Makati was closed in 1998. The account was closed in 2000 after being inactive for about a year and a half, according to him.

Kabigting accused Banayo of misleading the public by creating the wrong impression that the account was still active when he showed to the media a photocopy of the BPI Family Bank check.

"Both he and Senator Lacson were well aware of the facts surrounding that account after they received copies of our letter to the Senate blue ribbon committee indicating that the account was opened in 1997 and later closed in 2000 long before the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Law," the BPI executive said.

"Our suggestion to people like Lito Banayo is to stop misinforming the public and stop scaring investors away," Kabigting said.

At the Senate, an official of the Union Bank branch that held the "Jose Pidal" account denied having anything to do with the controversial account.

Nestor Pineda, former business manager of the Union Bank branch on Perea Street in Makati, also denied knowing Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, erstwhile star witness of Sen. Panfilo Lacson against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Pineda, however, invoked the Bank Secrecy Law when asked if he had encountered the Jose Pidal account.

In his first affidavit, Mahusay claimed the Jose Pidal account belonged to First Gentleman Arroyo whom Lacson accused of laundering at least P260 million.

Mahusay also claimed that he would call Pineda whenever he deposited in or withdrew millions of pesos from the Jose Pidal account.

Even after he retracted his allegation against Arroyo, Mahusay maintained in his revised affidavit that he would call Pineda before making a transaction on the account.

No personal dealings

Pineda denied transacting with Mahusay. "I do not know him. I see him at the branch but I have no personal dealings with him," he said in Filipino.

"Perhaps he's really a liar," said Pineda said when Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta reminded him of Mahusay's affidavit.

Sen. Serge Osmeña Jr. had to ask Pineda twice whether he helped open the account.

"No, your honor," Pineda finally replied after saying the "signature card" would show who opened the account.

But neither he nor the other Union Bank officials summoned to the hearing presented the signature card.

Sen. Noli de Castro also had to ask Pineda twice whether he solicited the account.

At first the bank official refused to answer.

When De Castro insisted, Pineda said he did not solicit the Jose Pidal account. He also said that he did not solicit an account from Arroyo's brother Ignacio, who is claiming ownership of the Jose Pidal account.

When Sen. Eduardo Angara asked Pineda if he handled the Jose Pidal account, the Union Bank manager refused to answer, invoking the Bank Secrecy Law.

"That means you're hiding something," Angara told him in Filipino.

Could not remember

Pineda said he could not remember if he approved any withdrawals from the account. He said his job was only to look for clients.

When Angara told him the Senate would eventually get the bank documents, Pineda admitted that he sometimes approved withdrawals.

Under Sen. John Osmeña's questioning, Pineda said he did not know how much cash the bank maintained for withdrawals. "You're lying," the senator said.

Two other bank officials said at the Senate hearing that they knew Mahusay.

But Erwin Lapuz and Ferdinand Galvez, former bank managers of the Union Bank-Perea branch, said they "do not recall" receiving calls from Mahusay before he withdrew money from the bank account.

Under Oreta's questioning, Lapuz said "theoretically" it was the business manager who approved accounts held under aliases.

He did not reply when asked who approved the Jose Pidal account.

"We're here to bring out the truth yet you don't want to bring out the truth," Oreta said in Filipino. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

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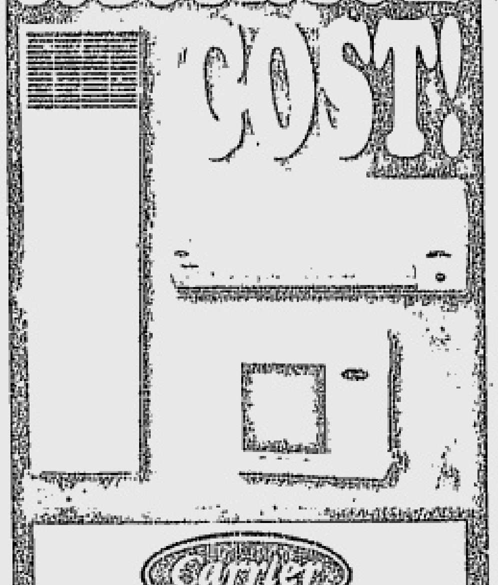

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush seeks extra $87B for war operations

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush called Sunday on other nations to take a greater role in policing and rebuilding Iraq and said he would ask for an extra $87 billion to pay for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With US troops suffering a growing death toll in Iraq and his policy facing mounting criticism at home and abroad, Bush acknowledged prewar tensions with US allies but urged them to forget the differences.

"Members of the United Nations now have an opportunity, and the responsibility, to assume a broader role in assuring that Iraq becomes a free and democratic nation," he said in a speech to the nation from the White House.

"I recognize that not all of our friends agreed with our decision to enforce the Security Council resolutions and remove Saddam Hussein from power.

"Yet we cannot let past differences interfere with present duties. Terrorists in Iraq have attacked representatives of the civilized world, and opposing them must be the cause of the civilized world."

The United States is seeking a new UN resolution allowing a US-led multinational force in Iraq and wider international participation in the occupation and reconstruction.

France, Germany and Russia have also said there must be a greater UN role in Iraq before they will agree a new resolution. But despite the divisions before war at the UN Security Council, all have said they are prepared to negotiate.

Bush said he plans to ask Congress for $87 billion to cover military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan and other sensitive zones over the next year.

He said the military and intelligence operations would cost $66 billion.

"This budget request will support our commitment to helping the Iraqi and Afghan people rebuild their own nations, after decades of oppression and mismanagement," Bush said.

He said Secretary of State Colin Powell would start meeting representatives of other nations this month to discuss contributions to the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

Next month he will hold a conference on funding the reconstruction of Iraq.

"Europe, Japan and states in the Middle East will all benefit from the success of freedom in these two countries and they should contribute to that success," Bush said.

Immediate US reaction was mixed. Democratic presidential contender Howard Dean said Bush had failed to meet critics' demands to give more details on his plans and how he would persuade other nations to join the US effort. *Reuters*

THE SHADOWS of a US soldier and detainee are cast on a wall after an early morning raid by the 1st Battalion (22nd regiment) of the fourth Division of the US army in Tikrit, about 180 km northwest of Baghdad Sept. 8. US forces arrested four people during raids on homes of suspected Saddam loyalists. REUTERS

Palestinian PM nominee asks US, EU guarantees

ABU DIS, West Bank—Palestinian parliamentary speaker Ahmed Korei, Yasser Arafat's nominee for prime minister, said on Monday he wanted US and European guarantees of support for peacemaking before accepting the post.

Arafat chose Korei on Sunday to replace Mahmoud Abbas, who had resigned in frustration a day earlier, complaining that the Palestinian president and Israel had obstructed his peace efforts and the United States had not given him enough backing.

Korei's credentials as a highly regarded moderate and an architect of the 1993 interim Oslo peace accords with Israel could endear him to the United States and could raise hopes of salvaging a battered US-led peace plan.

There was no immediate reaction from Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who was leaving on an official trip to India on Monday. But he has ruled out talks with a Palestinian leadership controlled by Arafat.

Israeli Health Minister Danny Naveh, of Sharon's rightist Likud party, said Korei's nomination would not bring a resumption of dialogue because "the man who is pulling the strings and controlling everything is one person, and it's Yasser Arafat."

Korei, a veteran politician but one who has little grass-roots support among Palestinians, appeared to recognize the difficulties he faces if he takes the job.

"I am not prime minister as yet ... I want to see the Americans—what kind of guarantee... they will (give)," he said.

"I want to see Europe, what kind of guarantees and support... they will (give). I'm not ready to go for a failure. I want to see whether peace is possible or not," he said in English in his office in the West Bank village of Abu Dis near Jerusalem.

Soon after Arafat's decision on Sunday, Israel launched the latest in a series of missile strikes against Islamic militant groups. Helicopter gunships attacked the home of a member of Hamas' military wing, wounding 15 people, medical workers said.

The army said the building was used as a weapons arsenal and that ammunition and explosives blew up after the missiles hit. *Reuters*

SAND SCULPTURE

A Chinese tourist looks at a sand sculpture of ancient warriors on the desert hill of Sha Hu (Sand Lake), some 42 km from Yinchuan, capital city of China's autonomous Ningxia region Sept. 8. China is reviving its once-booming tourism industry, which plunged since late April when SARS erupted in the country. REUTERS

Wife of vanished Lord Lucan dismisses claim

LONDON—The wife of Lord Lucan on Monday dismissed a claim that her husband, whose mysterious disappearance has fascinated Britain for nearly 30 years, fled to India and lived out the rest of his days there under a false name.

The aristocrat vanished in 1974 after his children's nanny was bludgeoned to death and his wife beaten with a lead pipe. Days later, his bloodstained car was found abandoned near the English Channel, prompting speculation he drowned himself or fled abroad.

Lucan was officially declared dead in 1999, but a new book by a former Scotland Yard detective claims Lucan lived in India under the name Barry Halpin from 1975 until his death in 1996. The book features photographs of a gaunt, bearded man taken in the Indian state of Goa in the early 1990s, which former policeman Duncan MacLaughlin says are of Lucan.

MacLaughlin says the photos were handed to him by Mark Winch, a former drug dealer who became friendly with Halpin. Winch said that Halpin was a well-spoken gambler who loved to play backgammon, a favorite pastime of Lucan, known as "Lucky" to his friends.

But Lady Lucan, 66, said she was "adamant" Barry Halpin could not have been her husband.

"The description, none of it fits," she told Sky News TV. "It's not possible. It's unutterably boring.

"I could never imagine my husband looking so pathetic," she said of the photographs. "It is an utter impossibility that his character could have changed so much." *AP*

London stages terror attack simulation

LONDON—Hundreds of British police and emergency workers on Sunday staged a major exercise testing their response to a terrorist strike on London—an attack which police believe is inevitable sooner or later.

Amid scenes reminiscent of a Hollywood disaster movie, the simulated chemical attack on the capital's subway system came days ahead of the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 strikes on the United States.

British officials said their long-planned exercise, in the heart of London's financial district, was not in response to a specific threat and that no real chemical agents were being released.

But the scenario was designed to be as realistic as possible, and resembled a 1995 Sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway by the Aum Supreme Truth cult which killed 12 people and injured thousands of others.

Some 500 police, fire and ambulance staff, together with personnel from the London Underground or the Tube, as the capital's subway is popularly known, took part in the exercise.

The simulation, which began shortly before midday, involved passengers traveling to Bank station being overcome by an unknown chemical.

Their train stopped in a tunnel just before the station, where the line is 120 meters below ground. *AFP*

For Afghans, the enemy isn't Taliban but US-backed warlords

By Kathy Gannon

KABUL, Afghanistan—Along a potholed road in eastern Afghanistan, Mohammed Jan points through a cloud of dust at a line of mansions that seem out of place in such poverty-stricken surroundings.

"This is where the new, beautiful houses begin. They belong to the commanders. Their money is from drugs, from smuggling. They will never be caught. Their soldiers are working with the Americans," says Jan, himself a small-time opium grower.

Nearly two years after the collapse of Taliban rule, ordinary Afghans like Jan say they are losing faith in the United States and its coalition partners.

They point to rampant corruption, President Hamid Karzai's weak leadership and the behavior of US-backed warlords whose private armies operate with impunity throughout most of Afghanistan.

Their disillusionment is strengthening Taliban holdouts whose attacks are getting bolder. Nowadays the rebels don't fear being turned over to the authorities; they say most villages give them food and shelter.

"The big mistake is from the Americans. They want to bring peace to Afghanistan with thieves and killers. The Americans after two years have learned nothing," said Abdul Raouf, a car dealer in the eastern city of Jalalabad. "Every day the situation is worse."

The American invasion of Afghanistan relied heavily on local anti-Taliban forces, and it was inevitable that these warlords, however unsavory, would continue to be important forces in the hunt for Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida network that masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks.

But Afghans increasingly wonder whether the trade-off was worth it.

"Everybody says warlords, but who are these warlords? They are commanders, they are government ministers," said Raouf. "We didn't like the Taliban but there was security then, there were laws. But now anyone with a gun is the law."

Back at the mansions, in the province of Nangarhar, a white marble watchtower peeks over the 3-meter-high brick wall.

"Drug smuggler," Jan says. "That's a commander of Hazrat Ali's. Are the Americans crazy? We Afghans know who these people are and what they are doing. There is no security, no development, but these people's pockets are fat with money. We know that without the Americans they would be nobody."

Hazrat Ali is military chief of Afghanistan's eastern zone, a powerful man appointed by Karzai but aligned with Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim.

The United States says it is committed to strengthening the central government and is putting more than $1 billion into extending Karzai's control beyond Kabul, the capital to the whole Texas-sized country.

US officials insist that Jan's lament doesn't reflect the full picture. They say some areas are more secure, some less; some Afghans are optimistic, others not. They point to the reconstruction projects that are beginning, the road that links the capital to Kandahar.

Reconstruction, the argument goes, is bound to be slower in the east and south of Afghanistan, where Taliban and al-Qaida fighters are being hunted. Sometimes, Western diplomats say, solutions entail messy compromises; when Karzai decided that the governor of Kandahar, Afghanis-tan's second city, was corrupt and ineffective, he removed him but made him a government minister.

The opium industry, harshly suppressed by the Taliban, has made a roaring comeback.

The United Nations says production in 2002 generated up to $1.2 billion or almost a fifth of Afghan GDP. Central Asian states and Russia are complaining bitterly about the increase in Afghan drugs flowing north.

Those benefiting most are the commanders aligned to the government and working with the US-led coalition, say Afghans in eastern Jalalabad who spoke to The Associated Press.

Commander Mustafa, a soldier of Zahir's and a partner with the US-led coalition, denies the allegation. In an interview at his base near the border with Pakistan, surrounded by a dozen men with Kalashnikov rifles, he said his men would seize and destroy any drugs they found.

A UN official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the drug trade couldn't possibly flourish without the patronage of government officials and military commanders.

Human Rights Watch recently issued a 101-page report warning that "Afghan warlords and political strongmen supported by the United States and other nations are engendering a climate of fear in Afghanistan." It named a string of men in senior government positions.

This climate of fear, the advocacy group said, jeopardizes efforts to adopt a new constitution and hold national elections in mid-2004.

A disarmament campaign was to have begun July 1, but the United Nations delayed it, demanding the Defense Ministry first be reformed to reflect Afghanistan's ethnic diversity. The United Nations wants sweeping changes to take power away from Defense Minister Fahim's private army.

Nearly two years since taking power, Karzai's limited reach is allowing the corruption to flourish.

Several months ago, Karzai banned logging in eastern Afghanistan, but it still flourishes in areas where his appointees govern. *AP*

AFGHANS look on in the opium market of Ghani Kheil, in Nangahar province of eastern Afghanistan, Aug. 28. AP

Australia's worst serial killers draw life

ADELAIDE, Australia—Two men were sentenced Monday to life imprisonment for Australia's worst serial killings, a series of grisly murders motivated by a hatred of homosexuals and pedophiles.

A South Australian Supreme Court jury found John Justin Bunting, 37, guilty of 11 murders and co-accused Robert Joe Wagner, 31, guilty of seven murders.

Both men had been charged with one more murder, but the jurors said they could not reach a verdict on that killing.

South Australia's infamous "bodies in the barrels" case followed the gruesome discovery in May 1999 of eight dismembered bodies in six plastic barrels in the vault of an abandoned bank at Snowtown, north of Adelaide.

Another two bodies were found buried in the backyard of an Adelaide home and two more elsewhere.

It was Australia's biggest serial killing case, surpassing the "backpacker murders" that occurred between 1989 and 1992 in New South Wales state for which Ivan Milat is serving seven life sentences with no possibility of parole.

Submissions on how long Bunting and Wagner should wait for parole are to be heard at a later date.

Wagner previously pleaded guilty to a further three counts of murder before the current trial started last October.

In a trial that lasted more than 11 months, jurors heard how Bunting and Wagner killed for enjoyment. *AFP*

Jakarta prosecutors to appeal Bashir's 'lenient' jail sentence

JAKARTA—Indonesian prosecutors said on Monday they would appeal over a four-year jail term passed last week on a radical Muslim cleric, whose treason trial sentence was seen as too lenient in much of Asia and the West.

Critics' views seemed likely to be reinforced by comments by the cleric, Abu Bakar Bashir, published on Monday in which he said Hambali, an Indonesian preacher accused of being behind a wave of bombings including last year's Bali blasts, was a "good person."

Antasari Azhar, a spokesperson for the Attorney General's Office, said the appeal over Bashir would specifically center on the charge that he led Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), a Southeast Asian group blamed for a string of attacks in the region. The court found the charge unproven.

Prosecutors had demanded that the prominent cleric be jailed for 15 years. Many saw this as tantamount to a life sentence for the 65-year-old Bashir, who has suffered from poor health.

A separate court in Bali jailed three men to between 15 and 16 years on Monday for taking part in a robbery that netted funds used in the October 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people.

"We can't accept (the verdict) because we think the charges were proven in court. We will appeal the primary charge," Azhar told Reuters, referring to Bashir's alleged leadership of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah.

Azhar said prosecutors had yet to file the appeal.

Diplomats and analysts had seen Bashir's trial as a litmus test of Indonesia's commitment to stamp out radical Islam in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

While Indonesia has cooperated in the war on terror since the Bali bombings, security experts have said it needed to go further and tackle the problem of militant teachings in a small number of Islamic boarding schools, or pesantren.

They also argue that President Megawati Sukarnoputri has made little effort to explain the problem of terrorism to her people, or even mention Jemaah Islamiyah's existence.

Officials blame JI for the Bali bombings and the Aug. 5 blast at the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta that killed 12.

Indonesia has rejected criticism that Bashir's sentence showed the country was faltering in its war on terror.

Bashir's lawyers were expected to lodge their own appeal against the verdict later on Monday.

The cleric has won notoriety for calling Osama bin Laden a true Islamic warrior. In an interview published on Monday he also said Hambali, arrested last month in Thailand and accused of being a key figure in world terrorism, was a "good person."

"Hambali's aims were to defend Islam and fight America but he went too far. For me, taking on America should not be with bombs, that's no use," Bashir told the Koran Tempo newspaper.

But churches could be destroyed if it was proved they had tried to restrict Islamic practices, Bashir added.

Authorities here often allow media to interview convicts.

Despite criticism over the Bashir trial, Indonesia has been praised for seeking tough penalties against 38 militants on trial over Bali. One key suspect has been sentenced to death while another faces the same fate when the court hands down its judgment on Wednesday.

The sentences imposed on the three who robbed a gold shop on Java island were close to those sought by prosecutors. *Reuters*

Al-Qaida tape vows fresh attacks against Americans

DUBAI—A purported audio tape by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida group on Sunday vowed attacks on Americans "everywhere," so devastating that Washington would forget the horror of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings.

The tape, dated Sept. 3, came a few days before the second anniversary of the September 2001 attacks on US cities—blamed on al-Qaida. Washington said last week it was on alert for possible attacks by the militant group. .

"We announce there will be new attacks inside and outside which would make America forget the attacks of Sept. 11 (2001)," a-Qaida spokesperson said in the tape broadcast by the Arabic television channel Al Arabiya.

He identified himself as Abu Abdel-Rahman al-Najdi, The television showed a still photo of a bearded militant wearing a head-dress as it played the tape. There was no immediate independent verification of the identity of the speaker.

"We assure the Muslims that al-Qaida ranks have doubled... Our casualties are nothing compared to our (good) conditions now. Our coming martyrdom operations will prove to you what we are saying," he added.

Al-Qaida has issued five other audio-tapes this year threatening action against the United States. Bin Laden and his deputies also made several video appearances in 2001.

The speaker denied any links to the killing of leading Shiite Muslim cleric Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim in a car bomb attack in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf last month.

Some US and Iraqi reports suggested that al-Qaida was behind the car bomb attack that killed Hakim and 83 others.

"We strongly deny that al-Qaida had any hand in this bombing which killed Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, violated the sanctity of one of God's houses and killed innocent people."

"Our highest aim is to fight the Americans and kill them everywhere on earth and drive them out of Palestine, the Arabian peninsula and Iraq."

The speaker accused Washington and Israel of orchestrating the killing because, he said, they feared the cleric's links to Iran would boost the Islamic Republic's influence in the area. *Reuters*

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'New Colombia'

EDITORIAL

SIX Filipino journalists have been killed this year. With the political and media atmosphere heating up in the run-up to the 2004 elections, it appears likely that attempts will be made on the lives of more journalists, especially in the provinces.

The latest assassination victim was Juan Porras Pala, the most popular radio commentator in Davao City. Pala led a colorful life; he supported the anti communist vigilante group Alsa Masa in the 1980s. At this point, it is not yet known whether he was assassinated for his exposés, his political commentary or his anti-communist advocacy.

The five other journalists who were killed this year were:

1. John Villanueva, a broadcaster of dzGB in Legazpi City, assassinated on April 28.
2. Apolinario Pobeda, a broadcaster of Lucena City, slain on May 17.
3. Bonifacio Gregorio of the Dyaryo Banat based in Tarlac, killed on July 8.
4. Noel Villarante, a hard-hitting radio broadcaster and columnist of Laguna, killed in Sta. Cruz City on Aug. 19.
5. Rico Ramirez, a radio journalist of dxST in Agusan del Sur, slain on Aug. 20.

Community journalists are especially being targeted for assassination. Why? Because government officials, politicians and public figures whom they criticize or whose alleged wrongdoings they expose take their writings or broadcast commentaries personally. Cities and towns in the provinces are small, tightly knit communities where everybody knows everybody else, and one suffers great humiliation when something critical or bad is written about him. Criminal syndicates also exercise great power in these communities.

Government officials, politicians and public figures in Metro Manila and the major cities who feel aggrieved by media reports file criminal and civil libel suits. People in the provinces cannot wait to go through the tedious process of a libel suit. They want to exact vengeance immediately, and they feel they can obtain this by killing media men who they think have destroyed their reputation.

The situation in the Philippines has reached such a point that the International Federation of Journalists, which represents 500,000 newsmen worldwide, said last week that its record now rivals that of "notoriously dangerous Colombia." At the time the IFJ issued its statement (Sept. 2), the journalists' death toll for the year in the Philippines was five, just one less than that of Colombia. Now they're even at six.

The IFJ said it was suspected that Ramirez was slain by members of the drug underworld whom he criticized in his broadcasts. "The Philippines is in danger of becoming the new Colombia as one of the world's most dangerous places to practice journalism," said IFJ president Christopher Warren.

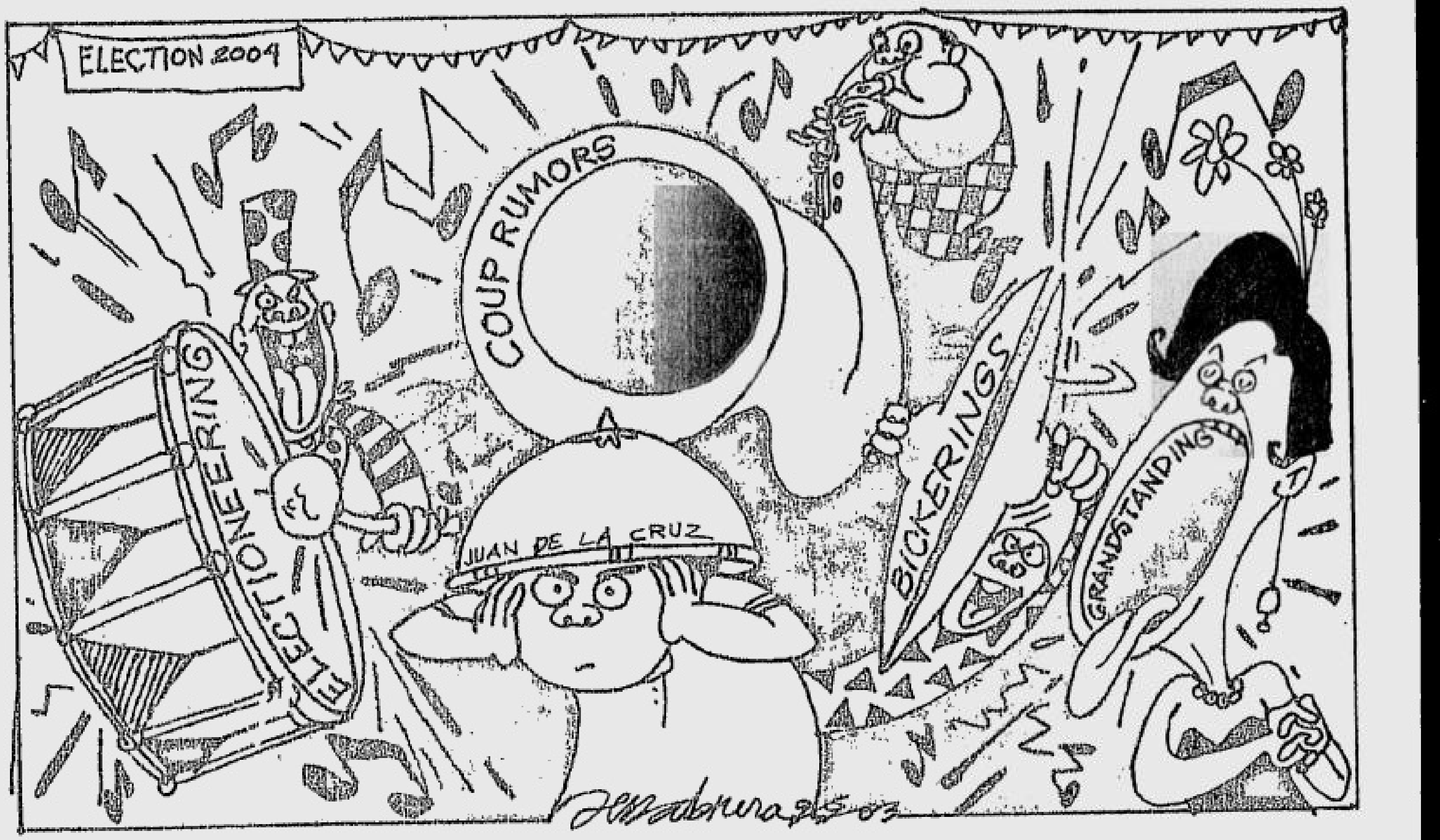
Warren on Sept. 4 wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo to urge the government to publicly condemn the continuing attacks on journalists, order an immediate investigation of the killings and take measures to ensure the safety of all journalists in the Philippines.

"Murder and violent attacks on journalists are the worst forms of attack on press freedom and civil society," Warren said. "Attacks such as these must be dealt with swiftly in order to ensure press freedom in the Philippines."

Warren correctly observed that there has been "a disturbing lack of action by the government of the Philippines" because no cases relating to the murder of media men have been solved since 1986. To date, exactly 42 journalists have been killed in the line of duty.

The killing of journalists continues because of a climate of impunity. Assassins can shoot down journalists any time and get away with it. A case in point is that of Edgar Damalerio, a journalist in Pagadian City, whose suspected killer was identified and detained but who was allowed to get away by the police. To date, the alleged killer has not been recaptured.

The increasing frequency of the killing of journalists is very disturbing. In previous editorials we called on the government to exert every effort to bring the killers to justice. Now we can only endorse again the call of the IFJ for the government to order the investigation of the killings of the six journalists who were recently slain and to take steps to ensure the safety of all journalists. The culture of impunity must stop. Journalists cannot function well in a climate of fear. Attacks on journalists are an assault on press freedom and, ultimately, an attack on civil society, democracy and liberty.



Can ampalaya fight diabetes?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from yesterday)

HERBALISTS should lose no time in undertaking a widescale, honest-to-goodness study so that a definite scientific conclusion can be made, leaving no room for doubt that *ampalaya* is really effective against diabetes. The wonder is why they don't. Instead, they are trying to mislead the public by insisting that there are "volumes of scientific studies that validated the inclusion of *ampalaya* as one of the 10 Philippine herbs to be studied, utilized and promoted by the health department as 'alternative, safe and effective medicines.'"

Precisely no sufficient studies have been made on *ampalaya*, and therefore there is a lack of evidence on its clinical efficacy against diabetes. As Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said, "the information generated from studies on *ampalaya* has been based on animal studies and a few small studies on humans with diabetes *mellitus* . Due to sample size limitations and open nature of the study, the findings have not been able to establish *ampalaya* as truly beneficial and even as adjunctive treatment to diabetes *mellitus*. To date, no large clinical trial has yet been published on any type of preparation of *Momordica charantia* (*ampalaya*)."

For, truly, scientific studies have to undergo several phases: a study on animals, then on normal human volunteers then on patients with the disease sought to be cured; then finally the large scale, randomized, controlled and blinded study involving thousands of subjects for a long period of time. Some subjects are given placebos; others, the drug being tested. Neither the subject nor the doctor knows who is getting the placebo and who is getting the drug. This is to avoid bias, so they won't look for the desired effects. It is only after the results have been collated that the study is "unblinded," meaning the subjects who got the placebo and who got the drugs are identified.

Only on the basis of favorable findings will the Food and Drug Administration approve the drug for sale to the public. The reason is obvious: to make sure that the public is served safe and effective medicine. After the approval, the manufacturer may perform an open label post-marketing survey.

The *ampalaya* concoctions are still a far cry away of these required phases. But their commercial manufacturers have found a loophole: The requirements are for drugs; the *ampalaya* concoctions are "food supplements"; they don't need FDA approval.

But they advertise and market *ampalaya* like a drug. People get the erroneous impression that it can take the place of prescribed drugs.

The commercial manufacturers say they do not claim that *ampalaya* can take the place of regular medications. All they are saying is that it should be taken "in addition" to the drugs, that it is only a "food supplement." These facts are indicated in the labels and the advertisements.

True, but those facts are printed at the bottom of the labels in very small letters, hardly noticed by the readers who are overwhelmed by the celebrity endorsements in big bold letters. As a result, diabetics take it instead of their regular medicine. And there are no findings that *ampalaya* is effective "even as adjunctive treatment to diabetes," according to the Department of Health.

The DOH directive does not ban the sale of *ampalaya* concoctions. No doubt in reaction to big advertisement and commercials, the DOH merely advises "all concerned to discontinue any endorsement of *ampalaya* as an alternative treatment for diabetes" pending further investigation. If the DOH and the associations of diabetes specialists had not done this and allowed the continued endorsements, it could have been accused of negligence.

Their statements and directives were not intended against herbal medicines but against the commercial manufacturers who are marketing herbal concoctions like snake oil, purportedly with fantastic properties that can cure almost anything, from the most common to the most deadly diseases: high blood pressure, heart diseases, kidney disease, stomach ailments, fever, aches and pain, lung diseases, even cancer. Any sensible person will readily see that no herb can possibly do all these.

While certain plants really have medicinal properties—in fact, many drugs are taken from plants, purified and concentrated in liquid or tablet form—those plants and leaves have other properties whose effects on the human body we don't know yet. Patients have been taken seriously ill, or even died, after taking a regular dose of some herbal medicine. Orlando Aquino, a newspaper editor of the Manila Bulletin, died after taking mahogany seeds believed to lower blood pressure. Mahogany seeds are now proven to be toxic to humans. And yet not to so long ago it was very popular and many people were using it.

Another popular herbal concoction is the "*pito-pito*" herbal tea. This is a mixture of leaves taken from seven different plants, boiled into tea. Instead of unknown substances from just one plant, you drink unknown substances, some of which may be harmful, from seven different plants.

To repeat, this is not a treatise against herbal medicine. The Chinese have been using herbal medicine for centuries. But they never made any medicinal claims as those of the Filipino commercial manufacturers and marketers. The message of this piece is this: You can still take your herbal medication if that would make you happy, but don't use it to replace your regular medicine. Be careful.

A plague on both your houses

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

ON THE FACE of it, Joey Lina's warning seems reasonable. Government, he said, would not hesitate to apply "the full force of the law" if groups such as Copa "crossed the line." The reasonability is couched in the statement being hypothetical or conditional. Government will crack down on groups such as Copa if they engaged in destabilization.

But that is only on the face of it, which is not a very pretty face. What is wrong with it is that it is not unlike a teacher warning a student, who has been protesting her incompetence and corruption, that if the student oversteps the limits of acceptable conduct, he will be expelled. It presumes that the student, who has so far shown only perspicacity, has a tendency to go overboard.

The warning is not just superfluous, it is undeserved. The object of attention in fact should not be the student's conduct, it should be the teacher's. The object of vigilance should not be the student's future transgression, it should be the teacher's current one. The teacher of course may always be expected to issue such a warning out of self-interest. But the parents of the student as well as the entire school may not take it sitting down.

Lina's warning to Copa is the same thing. Copa has been loudly protesting GMA's misrule for some time now. It has called for an investigation of several possible scams, not the least of which is the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, which has added whole new dimensions into the meaning of Yellow Brick Roads. You would think every inch of that small stretch of road was paved with gold. For Copa to be singled out now as another potential agent of destabilization, well, GMA and her lieutenants may be expected to do that out of self-preservation. But we may not take it sitting down.

But more than this, what is wrong with Lina's warning is that it presumes government can see the proper line from which to construe overstepping. Its utterances and actions refute that. They show government to be thoroughly confused about the difference between protest and destabilization.

Golez's effort to implicate Boy Morales in destabilization plots last week already suggested so. The line between a military mutiny and a public uproar, between a power grab and "people power," is huge. If you cannot see that, you have no business talking about people "crossing the line." As I said last week, even if Boy Morales were mounting an Edsa IV, what of it? If he can do it, the best of luck to him. And even if he were storming the gates of heaven itself, aka the Edsa Shrine, what of it? The Edsa Shrine is public property, morally if not legally, the inheritor of Plaza Miranda's claim to being a public square where free expression reigns.

Since then, the groups out to defend GMA at a time when her administration is rocked by charges of corruption have been allowed to gather at the Edsa Shrine while groups protesting that same corruption have been chased away from UN and Ayala avenues for disturbing the peace. They have moreover been lumped together with the military mutineers as plotting to oust government. In fact, even if they were plotting to oust government, what of it too? There is a monumental difference between plotting to oust government by a coup and plotting to oust government by elections, or people power. The first government has every reason to defend itself from. The second, well, it will want to defend itself from it too, but it won't be democracy it will be defending.

A familiar pattern? Yes, but the parallel is not Erap's time. To his credit, or ignorance, Erap did not call the people protesting against him subversives, nor did he hound them for being so. Though toting a huge electoral mandate, he did not imagine himself the state, or the embodiment of democracy, merely the spirit of Johnny Walker Blue. Ironically, the current suppression is being made in the name of democracy.

The parallel is GMA's "war against terror," which in democracy's name also called for the division of the world into those who are for GMA and against her. Those being for her presumably being freedom fighters and those against her being terrorists. Today, in lieu of "terrorists," those against her are called "destabilizers" and power grabbers—though it is not fanciful to imagine they could soon be linked to terrorism. I ask again those who flocked to La Salle Greenhills last Saturday to defend democracy: What democracy?

I sympathize with Copa particularly because I share its premises, if not its solutions. I too would not be very happy if Lina or Golez were to warn me that they would crack down on me if I crossed the line. Like Copa, I do not like the Macapagal administration, which has singlehandedly turned this country back into an American colony and wrecked democracy by putting people like Angelo Reyes, Rollo Golez, Wahab Akbar and their ilk in charge of defending it. But I do not like coups either, which prescribe poison to a cancerous patient. Or indeed the opposition, chief of them Lacson, which and who were the bane we thought we had banished forever not too long ago.

Like Copa, I am one of the legions of Filipinos who long for an alternative to GMA and Erap. Unlike Socrates Villegas, I am not one of those who believe that silence is the better part of valor, or progress. I am one of those who refuse to be conscripted to defend Gloria for the glory of democracy. Her claim to defending democracy, as indeed the spirit of Edsa II, ended long ago. I am one of those who say not very silently, "A plague on both your houses, let's build another one." Someone leads a cause like that, I'll follow.

If none does, I'll lead, even if I am not a born leader. My cup may not runneth over, like Copa, but I figure I'll manage.

To suspend or not to suspend

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT yesterday's Senate hearings, Ignacio Arroyo, the younger brother of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, stuck to his original statement that he opened accounts under the name of Jose Pidal in two banks along Perea Street in Makati, which he closed before the Anti-Money Laundering Act took effect in September 2001. From the statements issued by Bank of the Philippine Islands Family Bank and Union Bank, there seems to be no problem about that claim. But the senators were unconvinced that Iggy and not Mike is the owner of the accounts, and they sought to trap him into admitting it. Iggy, however, sought to evade the questions by claiming his constitutional right as a private citizen to "privacy." His continuous invocation of his right to privacy and constant consultation with his lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, irritated some senators. Blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo was under pressure to force Ignacio to abandon this tack, but he wisely refused to cave in, realizing that the latter could bring the issue to the Supreme Court. Nevertheless this made Iggy look like he was trying to protect his big brother, but the reason could also be that he himself appears to have some problems with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and banking rules. Ignacio was calm and collected (and the ladies noted that he's far handsomer than Mike), but he lost points as he appeared to be hiding something with his evasive answers.

* * *

Sen. Robert Barbers, who seems to be the only ally of the Arroyos, pointed out one aspect of the cases that has now become the main issue before the Senate committees. He pointed out that yesterday's testimony by various bank officials showed that the three banks that used to hold Pidal accounts refuse to open their records. The bank officials invoked RA 1405, the Bank Secrecy Law, which protects the confidentiality of clients, and the senators seemed unable to do anything aside from expressing like Sen. Edgardo Angara the hope that "perhaps one day some bank records, cancelled checks or documents would surface," or that a witness would trip in his testimony. Given the charged atmosphere and RA 1405, however, such an accidental development seems doubtful.

* * *

Barbers pointed out that since the controversy revolves around the bank accounts of Jose Pidal, the hearings should be suspended until there is solid evidence, inasmuch as right now all they have are photocopies of bank records, which could be spurious and cannot be the basis for any intelligent discussion. Moreover, Barbers noted that Lacson is still out of the country on what has been touted as an effort to gather evidence. That remark about Xerox copies prompted Sen. Sergio Osmeña to point out that the Senate as an impeachment court had also to content itself with Xerox copies of records. This, in turn, prompted Joker Arroyo, the lead public prosecutor then, to point out that the panel of prosecutors succeeded in finding documents through hard work. He asserted that the original documents were in the second envelope whose opening was blocked by Estrada's Senate allies. This drew a rejoinder from Sen. Loi Estrada that the second envelope showed Jaime Dichaves to be the owner of the Jose Velarde account, but Joker wisely avoided a confrontation with Loi.

* * *

Still the central issue remains what the Senate hopes to achieve through the hearings, considering the rigidity of our Bank Secrecy Law. Joker couldn't resist reminding the opposition that it fought to retain the stringent requirement during the deliberations on the Anti-Money Laundering Law just months ago. As some senators badgered the bank officials for details of the Pidal accounts, including the circumstances of their opening, an articulate lawyer of Union Bank told the senators that they had passed the Bank Secrecy Law and so they shouldn't make banks violate it. She stressed that confidentiality of bank records is at the heart of the banking system and the source of its strength. Angara, however, seems ready to go for broke in pushing this law to its limits.

* * *

Bank secrecy is indeed a very sensitive issue affecting the business community. The question is, where do the hearings go from here? Obviously the intention of the opposition is political: it wants the hearings to continue in order to fry Mike and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and introducing "remedial legislation" is secondary. The opposition is also trying to buy time for Lacson as he fishes for more evidence.

Joker closed the hearing without any decision on the suspension issue which has to be a collegial one. But Barbers reminded his colleagues that when he was ready to sponsor his committee report on the alleged drug-trafficking and kidnapping charges against Lacson, the latter's allies prevailed on him to postpone it since Lacson was not present. Now the shoe is in the other foot: Barbers wants the Pidal hearings suspended because Lacson is abroad.

* * *

While in Subic a few weeks back for the reunion of PMA Class '61, I asked SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo how the Freeport was surviving the economic crunch. He said Subic is largely dependent on the electronics and semi-conductor business, but the market for these products has shrunk. Nevertheless Subic surprisingly exported $1.32 billion in 2002 compared to $1 billion in 2001. This was because Acer, which closed down its computer plant in Europe, switched its orders to Subic. The Subic plant won over Shanghai's despite the vaunted cheap Chinese labor, said Payumo, showing that "there's more to competitiveness than just cheap labor." He said it's the "fast turn-around time" in the Freeport which, in this age of "just in time inventory," tilted the decision in its favor.

(To be continued)

Role models

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN our vehicle came to a stop in front of the home of Lilia and Mario Francisco, Nemia O. Bornidor, project coordinator of Binhi, or the Bukidnon Integrated Network of Home Industries, expressed surprise at the sight of a small covered truck by the gate. Felix Cagandi, a branch manager of Project Bulig, a micro-credit program for women under Binhi to which Lilia belongs, explained that the truck belonged to the couple and they used it for, among other things, transporting cut flowers. "Imagine that, our beneficiaries can now afford their own truck!" exclaimed Nemia.

Spotting us, Lilia and Mario told our group to follow us as their flower farm was quite a distance away. We drove over narrow dirt lanes and rough patches of ground, finally coming to a stop before a bamboo shack beside a small stream. This wasn't their own property, the Franciscos explained, they were leasing it for their flower business and had chosen it because of its ready and constant water source.

After hopping over a low fence and trudging across an earthen yard on which huge plump chickens, called "kabir," were scratching away, we finally came to the Franciscos' rose beds. The plants stood in neat rows, some 5,000 bushes or "hills" of "American beauties" in varied colors. "We harvest every day," confided Mario. "We pluck the flowers on their stems while they're still buds, and they last for a few days up to about a week as long as you keep them in clean water."

The couple said they sell the roses in a stall just off the national highway where regular customers from Cagayan de Oro and even Iligan know that they will always have roses for sale. "There's such a high demand some days we even have to turn away customers empty-handed," said Lilia.

The cut flower business was financed with a loan of P15,000 from Bulig, which Lilia is currently paying off with weekly payments. Though they have other sources of income, such as selling corn and raising hogs and chickens, the Franciscos agree that the roses are their "most profitable" business. The business has an added bonus: "I never feel tired," Lilia confides, "I love gardening and it never feels like work to me."

* * *

THOUGH the Franciscos have entered into a non-traditional business, most of the beneficiaries of Project Bulig seem to prefer to enter into tried-and-tested enterprises, such as *sari-sari* stores.

But Barbara Capiso, who with her husband Elidio manages their own store, has expanded the concept. Barbie's Store in Bgy. Sinkawan, Manolo Fortich, sprawls across the Capisos' front yard in a helter-skelter expansion. In front are the usual items found in *sari-sari* stores, although there's a hand-lettered sign announcing a special sale of Tupperware. To the left is a small room filled with agricultural supplies, while on the earthen floor are littered empty bottles, metal junk and nylon sacks. Barbara says they started in business by buying scrap metal and empty bottles, and then were able to open a store through a small loan from Bulig.

Today, Barbara is the "chief" of her local Bulig center, where she and other members meet once a week to pay off their loans, have these recorded and then hold discussions, usually about financial management. From an initial loan of P2,000, she is now paying off a P20,000-loan which she is paying in weekly installments of P1,600. Felix explains that Barbara qualified for a "special project," which offers members of good-standing bigger loans but at slightly higher interest, though, he says, "if a member does not default, then she can borrow double the old amount."

Barbara says her dream is to be able to save enough and borrow so she can buy a small truck and peddle their scraps around town and then return home with the truck filled with merchandise for the store.

As we leave, I spot some CD covers with the ubiquitous Taiwanese boy band "F4" displayed on the window sill. "These sell very well," avers Barbara.

"How do you know what items will sell?" I ask. "I watch TV and if something becomes popular, then I know it will sell," she says.

The Filipina's proverbial entrepreneurial spirit lives on in Manolo Fortich.

* * *

BUT Barbara is not even the most successful Bulig beneficiary in the branch. Felix says the "title" is held by Wilma Ramas, whose *sari-sari* store stands a few meters away from Barbara's on the corner near the main road. Unfortunately, Wilma was in the city but her husband Rowell and daughter Mary Queen were on hand to talk to us.

Just by the way it looks, it's obvious that Queen and Master Store is a profitable enterprise. It's a small but sturdy structure built of pine wood with screened windows. To one side is a covered area with a bench and a table, while a room to the side is filled with agricultural supplies and sacks of rice.

The business was built slowly, says Rowell, starting from a loan from Bulig of P3,000, enough to buy supplies for a small store, which, as Mary Queen describes it, was nothing much to look at, being made of only "nipa and bamboo." Now on her 15th loan "cycle," Wilma is paying off a loan of P150,000, which she is using to expand the store into a "mini-mart."

One of the advantages of the Grameen system, on which Project Bulig is based, is that social "controls" are employed to ensure that all the members of a small group faithfully pay off their loans. But the social relations can also work another way. The stories of Lilia, Barbara and Wilma, I'm sure, provide their neighbors and their daughters excellent role models to follow. Nation-building can be as simple a matter as attaining success, depending on your own resources, meeting your obligations and keeping true to your word.

Changing of the guard

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

AS I sat in the Manila Cathedral during the birthday Mass for Cardinal Jaime Sin last Aug. 31, my thoughts went back to another Sunday in August, 29 years ago. Then President Ferdinand Marcos' military had raided the Jesuit Novitiate at Novaliches, coming in with helicopter-borne assault troops and truckloads of soldiers. They stomped through the corridors, kicked doors open and frightened almost out of their wits not only the Jesuit novices but also some good nuns who were there on retreat. They found neither Jose Maria Sison whom they suspected to be hiding there nor anything incriminating.

As the controlled press attempted to justify the raid, Archbishop Jaime Sin, who had just been newly installed in the Archdiocese of Manila, reacted. He called for a prayer service of protest, in the cathedral, on a Sunday afternoon.

It was a courageous move, the first public protest under martial law, and no one knew how many people would come or what might happen. Yet the crowds did come, priests and sisters and lay people, on that rainy afternoon. And as I stood on the steps of the cathedral with Fr. Arthur Shea and listened to the tolling of the great bells, we saw a long line of urban poor approaching, people from Tondo who had evaded police barricades in order to join the protest. The sight blended with the sound of the bells, and together they echo in my memory even now.

These echoes recall the long series of courageous public interventions of Cardinal Sin, and remind us that an era in the history of the Philippine Church is coming to an end. Only recently we mourned the death of retired Bishop Antonio Fortich of Bacolod. Bishop Julio Labayen of Infanta has retired. Cardinal Sin is now of retirement age, and Bishop Francisco Claver of Bontoc-Ligawe will be of retirement age within a few months. The four were the most outstanding Church leaders in the struggles against the evils of martial law as well as the deeper evils of social injustice that were and are eroding the foundations of our society.

The massive turnout for the funeral of Bishop Fortich, a turnout which included poor farmers from the mountains whom he had fed and protected in times of famine and crisis, was an eloquent testimony to the goodness and social commitment of the man. People remembered his program for the *sacadas*, his buying of a sugar mill and transporting it to Daconcogon so that small farmers could mill their cane more cheaply, the cooperative he set up to manage it, his standing up to the military and his defense of priests and laymen unjustly accused of murder. Some also remembered his humiliation at the hands of a "crowd for hire" when, old and retired, he supported a "peace zone" in the mountains.

Like Bishop Fortich, Bishop Labayen and Bishop Claver were into social action programs before martial law. Both were vigorous opponents of the latter; both were at different times responsible for the National Secretariat of Social Action, Justice and Peace. Like Bishop Fortich, both incurred the displeasure of the apostolic nuncio for their forthright stands, and neither was promoted to archbishop.

In the ideological confusion of the times, Bishop Labayen came to be distrusted even by some of his fellow bishops as being too trusting of those on the ideological Left. In my mind, this came from his awareness of the tragedy of the Church in 19th-century Europe, when through neglect and lack of understanding the working class was lost to the faith. Thus, he was naturally sympathetic to those who seemed to espouse the cause of the poor. The occupation of Edsa Shrine and the violent attack on Malacañang of April and May 2001 suggest that the problem which occupied him, that masses of the poor were being alienated from Church and society, was, and is, real.

Bishop Claver, on the other hand, after some contacts with the ideological Left was much less trusting of the latter. He was concerned to develop an autonomous position for the Church, neither that of Marcos nor that of the Left. For his criticism of human rights violations under martial law, he saw his diocesan radio station and newspaper closed and one of his priests—Fr. Godofredo Alingal S.J.—murdered. And he worked, year after year, to bring the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines around to a Gospel-based social stance which would criticize the abuses both of the government and of the underground Left. The effort bore fruit in the bishops' 1983 joint pastoral letter "A Dialogue for Peace" and in their 1986 Post-Election Statement which declared the snap election "unparalleled in fraudulence" and giving no mandate for the Marcos government to remain in power.

Seventeen hundred years ago, Pope St. Gregory the Great said that the Church leader must be a watchman. "A watchman always stands on a height so that he can see from afar what is coming. Anyone appointed to be a watchman for the people must stand on a height for all his life to help them by his foresight." And he reflected on his own role as watchman: "I must weigh the lives and acts of individuals. I am responsible for the concerns of our citizens. I must worry about the invasions of roving bands of barbarians, and beware of the wolves who lie in wait for my flock…I must put up with certain robbers without losing patience and at times I must deal with them in all charity."

One wonders who among the younger bishops will rise to replace the watchmen whose watch is now coming to a close.

Gaea's plight

YOUNG BLOOD

Jan Andrew D. Zubiri

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

GAEA is alive. But she isn't well and doing fine. She is sick. She has been showing symptoms of various chronic diseases. She has been suffering from these ailments for the longest time—ever since man discovered her rich and fertile bosom. From that time on, man has been ceaselessly raping her. She has not only been abused, she has been over-abused, because man thought she could take anything.

Her cries of pain resounds throughout the whole world, but it seems no one can hear her, or people are pretending not to hear her. Many were not even aware of her condition until recently, when she started showing signs of imbalance in her system. She is trying to cope with the drastic changes, but it looks like she is having a difficult time doing so.

There are times when she experiences uncontrollable tremors, bringing grief to a lot of people. She unwittingly causes the deaths of hundreds in the dead of the night or even in broad daylight. She keeps people sleepless during such trying times, ironically sending panic and confusion whenever she shows the slightest sign of "life."

Her high temperature makes us feel sweaty and uneasy or, worse, wreaks havoc on our sources of sustenance. She doesn't devour and deplete our food supply because of her monstrous appetite or perennial hunger, but agricultural production dips when her fever shoots up to abnormal levels.

Her increasingly erratic behavior proves that indeed something is wrong with her. Feeling these abnormalities, she has often cried copiously. And as she cried, mankind cried with her over the loss of loved ones drowned by her tears.

She has been examined by various experts all over the world. She doesn't need to get a second opinion. All of them have only one prescription: Take care of her before it's too late. The chances are high that she might go into a coma in the not-so-distant future. And death may follow soon after.

Better yet, they said, flashing a ray of hope, put her under intensive care. She needs a lot of rest.

I heaved a sigh of relief when I learned that her ailments are curable. But this is no reason to cheer. After all the battering she has taken, it will take some time before her wounds fully heal.

There have been many attempts to cure and rehabilitate parts of her body. And here is the good news: The prognosis of experts is she'll do fine as long as she receives treatment and takes her "medicine" religiously.

One thing that boosts her chances of recovery is the establishment of several cause-oriented groups that have started raising funds for medical expenses.

But the experts say that a better approach would emphasize prevention rather than cure. Prevention will not only stop the damage but make hospitalization completely unnecessary.

Another piece of good news is that they think she's on the road to recovery. But I don't think it will be a quick one. It may take many years, decades, possibly even a century before she fully recuperates.

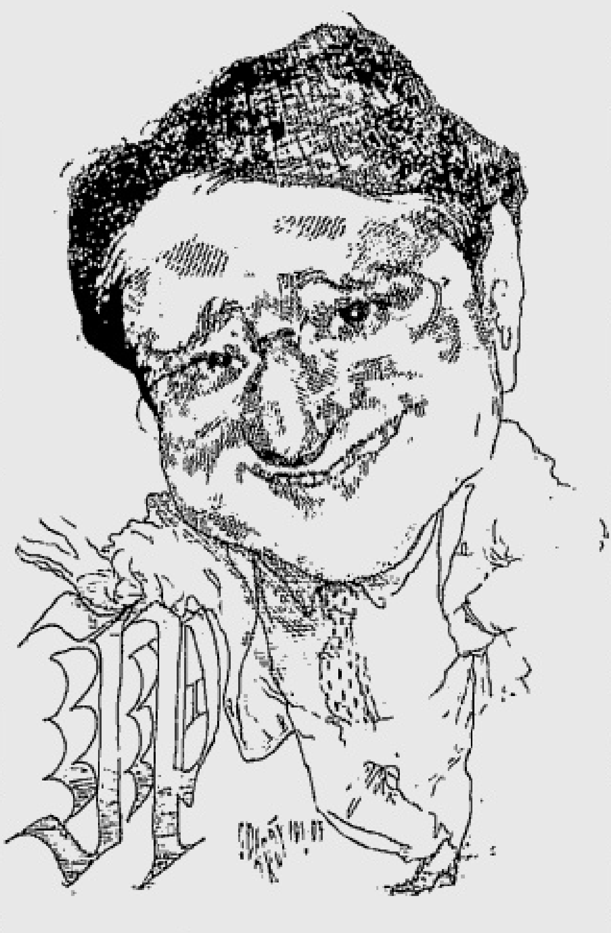
Let us save her, so that she can also save us. Let us reciprocate the love that she unconditionally gives us, and remember that she is not there to serve our selfish ends. We don't need the most sophisticated or latest breakthrough in technology in order to save her. It only takes concern and social action.

To quote the objective of the environmental NGO I volunteered to work for last summer, "Let's leave our children a living planet."

Habang may buhay, may pag-asa. Gaea is suffering from a serious ailment, but it is not a terminal case yet. She is recovering, but it is a slow process. Still the long wait will be worth it. We can't give up on her. She is the only one we have.

Jan Andrew D. Zubiri, 19, is a senior BS Human Ecology student at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños.

IN THE NEWS



Ignacio Arroyo

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Make Honasan irrelevant

HOW do you solve a problem like Honasan? This was the question posed by Tina Monson Palma in her TV talk show. She was, of course, referring to Sen. Gringo Honasan who has gone into hiding after being accused of masterminding a failed coup against the Macapagal administration.

To solve a problem like Honasan, one has to understand the possible reason or motivation that drives Honasan to play what President Macapagal-Arroyo terms as an "infantile game of hide and seek."

Honasan claims he is hiding because he does not trust the justice system under the Macapagal administration. However, the real reason is apparently the knowledge that he is guilty of the crime charged. If he had not participated or led the reported blood compact with the mutineers, he simply has to show an unscarred left upper arm. But to this day, he has not. He is obviously hiding something and knows that if he surfaces, it is only a matter of time before he lands in jail.

Honasan knows that by staying in hiding he can keep the press and the public interested in his case. As in a *telenovela* where the director keeps the viewer in continuous speculation about the next turn of events or how the story will end, Honasan wants to keep the public's interest piqued and thus remain on centerstage.

The best way to solve a problem like Honasan is to make him irrelevant.

Pay him no more attention. Let him play his game of hide and seek to his heart's content, and completely ignore his antics. Let him be a fugitive in his own imagination. Let him live on the edge; reduce him to a nervous wreck, eluding imaginary arrests. Let his life be miserable each time the phone rings, each time there's a knock at the door, or each time a car stops or parks in front of his hideout.

I remember one hide and seek game when I was a kid. I was "it" but unknown to my playmates I left the game when my mother sent me for an errand. I left them squirming uncomfortably in their cramped hiding places for God knows how long, putting up with insect bites and the heat, not knowing the game was practically over. They did not speak to me for a very long time after that.

For goodness' sake, ignore Honasan. I am certain he will not speak to us for a very long time.

**—JOEL G. DOJILLO,
Rm. 209, Doll Bldg.,
6th Street, Bacolod City**

Law and society

THE COURTS should invite experts (as *amicus curae*—why do lawyers still use Latin?) to help them in investigating cases of a technical nature, especially those that could impact on the economy.

The law is the servant of society, not the other way around. *Dura lex sed lex*: "The Law may be harsh, but it is the law" is, in my opinion, not fully correct. Yes, we must abide by the law, but it is not the ultimate bedrock: society is. So the higher courts, which have discretion, should consider the impact of its decisions on society.

The harm the recent Court of Appeals decision did to the economy cannot be underestimated. Confidence in the Central Bank (BSP) is an essential foundation to a vibrant economy. The CA decision has just greatly weakened that foundation.

It has struck out at one of the most critical aspects of an economy: The control of the country's money.

One can only hope the Supreme Court will swiftly reverse this decision, but the harm has already been done. Confidence in the stability of the country's monetary system has been brought into question.

The judgment of the Bangko Sentral governor on matters relating to banking has been challenged by judges whose competence in law can't be questioned, but whose knowledge of banking can.

I appeal to the Supreme Court: please review this case quickly and please bring in independent experts to advise you on the complex workings of the banking sector, so that your decision will be based on an understanding of how the banking sector works.

**—PETER WALLACE,
president,
The Wallace Business Forum,
14th Floor, Sagittarius Bldg.,
HV dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City**

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In (silent) praise

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A FEW weeks back UP president Francisco Nemenzo issued a memorandum reminding the faculty to be careful about observing the separation of church and state, especially around the use of prayers at the university. The memorandum was issued following a complaint from a law student about one faculty member who was starting her classes with a prayer.

People tend to think that everyone prays the same way so there shouldn't be a big deal about having an opening invocation for a symposium, a meeting or even a class. But the fact is that there can be sharp differences in the way different faiths pray, so that acts we take for granted in one religion may actually be offensive to people of other faiths.

For example, invocations in the Philippines (and at UP) often start out with a sign of the cross, which most Protestant groups do not use. I have also attended UP symposia where in the opening prayer, the Virgin Mary is invoked. While Mary is recognized, and well loved, by Protestants and Muslims, she is not seen as someone to pray to.

The very concept of prayer varies from one religion to another. In the Philippines, Christian prayers tend to be strong on requests, beseeching God for this or that favor. Buddhist prayers are not generally for requests since there is no concept of a creator God that intervenes in day to day affairs.

Muslims, on the other hand, differentiate between *salat* or ritual prayers required five times a day, and *du'a*, which includes invocations and requests. The ritual prayers are strong on praising God, calling out one of his many names. Before praying, Muslims require ritual ablutions or cleansing. In other words, Muslims take prayers very seriously, and may see Christian invocations as too casual.

We also violate other people's religious freedom when we put up certain images and statues in public places. For example, I've seen classrooms in public schools with crucifixes on the walls, complete with Christ's body. The Catholic teachers who put these up are apparently oblivious to the fact that crucifixes with the body of Christ are considered offensive even by some Protestants.

We have to learn to respect other people's beliefs, and that will include those of people like myself who feel uneasy with what we see as displays of false piety. My feelings about such displays have become stronger over the last two years, as we now seem to be developing a semi-theocracy of 'sorts, with the President and other officials trying to outdo each other with eyes shut in prayer and invoking God's name.

There's a legal battle going on in the Louisiana, after one public official put up a monument of the Ten Commandments in a public place, an act interpreted by civil libertarians as a violation of the separation of church and state. I'd be more tolerant and see it as a cultural display on the part of fundamentalist Christians, but I do wonder at times if we haven't picked up aspects of American performed piety. Bush, like our own President, is notorious for invoking God's name in his speeches in a way that is too self-conscious, even contrived.

Instead of putting up the Ten Commandments on display, we should be looking more closely at what those commandments admonish us to do. I'm thinking especially of the second one, which instructs us not to take God's name in vain. Prayer can be blasphemous, when used for public performance.

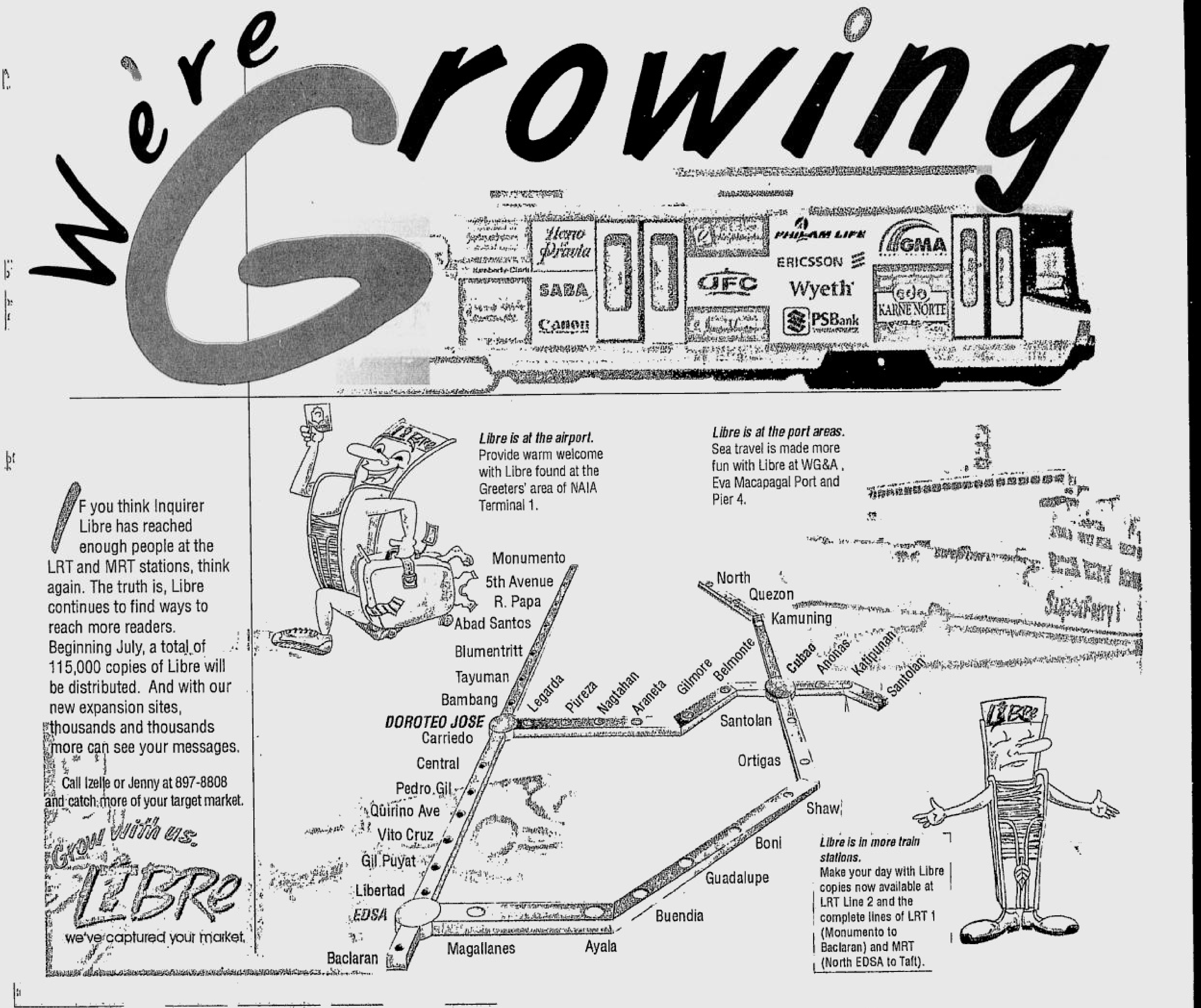
A few weeks back, I attended a faculty meeting at the UP College of Medicine where the dean started out by referring to the university memorandum on prayer. He then asked for a minute of reflective silence rather than an opening invocation. I think that was a very wise compromise but I could sense, too, that the faculty members weren't quite comfortable with this alternative. Filipinos are so much more used to recited prayers so I am sure some people passed that minute by rattling off some prayer learned from childhood.

Mind you, I have nothing against expressive forms of prayer. Praying aloud can be appropriate among people sharing one faith or even in inter-faith services where religious leaders have carefully planned out the liturgy.

But we should also learn to appreciate how silence and contemplation can be prayerful. Some Buddhist sects have silent meditation as the core of their religious practice. The Quakers, a Christian denomination, meet in bare, austere rooms, where members of the congregation remain quiet, so the spirit may enter them. The rare occasions when people are moved to speak out, they do so briefly and calmly.

Last week Bishop Socrates Villegas warned Catholics against the "debilitating noise of abused freedom," referring to the recent political circuses. Yet, I am convinced all that empty noise is part of a larger culture of public performance, one that extends into the way we pray. We are too prone to beating our breasts and calling to the heavens, proclaiming our own goodness and sanctity while calling on God and the Virgin Mary and the saints to slay our enemies. Should we be surprised when our politicians do a secular version in the halls of Congress, each trying to outdo the other with bombastic speeches and investigations much like our ostentatious prayers?

Bishop Villegas calls for a campaign for silence. I couldn't agree more. Because we talk so much, and I include noisy invocations there, we end up not listening to each other, or to the inner spirit. There can be no room for wisdom, for goodness, for whatever one wants to call God, if we are so filled up with ourselves.



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AI says 1,600 disappeared in fight vs rebels

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—At least 1,600 people have "disappeared" in the midst of armed conflicts in the Philippines since the 1970s, according to Amnesty International (AI).

In a report recently released, AI said "disappearances" have occurred in the course of the government's counter-insurgency campaigns against the New People's Army (NPA) and Moro rebels including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

People who have disappeared include civilians perceived by authorities to be sympathetic with rebels.

AI cited the case of Datu Abdullah Sabdura Ala, a Muslim community leader, and Ustadz Zulkifle Alimmudin, who were abducted in Davao City in the aftermath of the March and April bombings that killed 38 people.

Another case, which AI cited, was the disappearance of Virgilio Catoy, Eden Marcellana, Eddie Gumanoy, Francisco Saez and Melvin Jocson in Mindoro Oriental.

Marcellana, secretary general of the Southern Tagalog office of the human rights group Karapatan, and Gumanoy had since been found dead.

In the majority of cases that AI reported, "the fate of the victims remains unknown and the perpetrators have not been brought to justice." *Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NPA says 9 gov't troops defecting

OZAMIZ CITY—Communist guerrillas are preparing to roll out the red carpet for two government soldiers and seven militiamen who deserted their posts in Aurora town in Zamboanga del Sur Thursday last week, a rebel spokesperson said.

But as of Monday morning, both the military and the local branch of the National Democratic Front (NDF) could not yet confirm if the government troops have indeed defected.

In a press statement, Adan Sindapan of the NDF-Western Mindanao said the government troops include two Army regulars and seven militiamen belonging to a detachment of the 12th Civilian Armed Auxiliaries (CAA) company based in Barangay Kabilinan.

Sindapan identified the Army soldiers as S/Sgt. Lidio Yorong and Cpl. Roel de los Reyes, who brought along with them seven elements of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu).

A source in Aurora town said villagers saw uniformed men late last week headed for Sitio Lusno in Barangay Balas, believed to be a rebel-influenced area. But it could not yet be determined whether these were the same men who deserted their detachment.

The "deserters" brought with them 18 high-powered assault firearms consisting of two M-16 Armalites, three M-14s and 13 Garand rifles, Sindapan said.

Two days before the reported defection, Yorong was reportedly reprimanded by a certain 2Lt. Capirig of Alpha Company of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion, for "disrespect of CO (commanding officer)."

Sindapan said the reprimand triggered the desertion. Yorong's detachment is under the overall command of Capirig.

But the military denied anyone from its troops in Aurora town abandoned their duties, confirming only that there was misunderstanding between the overall commander and the CAA detachment commander.

Sindapan said the communist movement sympathizes with the soldiers who are constantly experiencing "discontent and leadership resentment" because of the "rottenness of the AFP as an organization."

He said the communist movement appreciated the act of the nine government troops, saying that the demand for reforms in the AFP is legitimate.

But if the disgruntled soldiers cannot follow the same act, Sindapan said, "we look forward to cooperating with them in achieving far greater changes in society."

The nine soldiers are manning a detachment that secures a switching plant of the National Transmission Co. (Transco). *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DEFECTIONS, defections. Former Muslim rebels queue in Zamboanga City to register their names for an amnesty program just as communist rebels claim soldiers had been defecting to them. REUTERS

ROUNDUP

1 dead in mishap

ATIMONAN, Quezon—A 60-year-old man died and at least 15 others were injured in two separate road accidents on the Maharlika Highway on Saturday. Police said Benjamin Elardo, 60, of Barangay Tagbakin, was walking on the side of the Maharlika Highway at about 1:30 p.m. when he was sideswiped by an Izusu jeepney driven by Marcel Atienza, of Sto. Rosario Subdivision, Lucena City. Elardo fell, his head hitting the concrete pavement. He was dead on arrival at a nearby hospital. Earlier, a Hyundai van driven by Rudino Empa collided with an MM Transit Baby Bus driven by Alquin Adava. Fifteen bus passengers were rushed to two hospitals for treatment of various injuries. The van was registered to Daily Sun Food Products Corp. with address at Bonifacio Street, Canumay, Valenzuela City.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Top criminal nabbed

CANDELARIA, Quezon—Calabarzon's most wanted criminal was arrested. Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Quezon police chief, identified the arrested man as Ronilo Mendoza alias Ronnie or Michael Morada, a native of Barangay Tangway, Lipa City. Police arrested Mendoza in his new residence in Barangay Bukal here where he had been in hiding since 2001 with his live-in partner and son. Terte said the suspect, who has a P350,000 cash reward for his capture, has long been wanted for parricide, kidnapping, car theft and frustrated homicide.

Delfin Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bus blast hurts 5

LUCENA CITY—A male passenger of a Manila bus bound for Bicol threw three grenades inside a Bobis Bus Liner traversing the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Lagalag, Tiaong, Quezon Friday afternoon. No one was reported killed when two of the grenades exploded. Five passengers suffered injuries in different parts of the body but were reported safe and recuperating in a local hospital. Bus driver Rizaldy Estrada Borilla told police that the grenade thrower boarded the bus in Daraga, Albay. After throwing the grenades, he immediately jumped out of the bus and boarded a southbound passenger jeep.

Delfin Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drunken man kills 2

BATANGAS CITY—A drunken member of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) was arrested after he went amuck and fired at the house of a resident of the Bliss housing complex in San Jose Sico, this city and left two dead and two more injured last week. City police chief Supt. Juanito Gamboa said the suspect, Jerry Gutierez, 19, detailed at the Army's 4th Special Forces Regiment Battalion in Taysan town, had just come from a drinking spree when he opened fire at the at about 12:30 a.m. Victims Feliciano Montalbo, 36, a carpenter, and his 8-year-old daughter Jacqueline were hit in different parts of the bodies and died on the spot. Montalbo's wife Elma, 31, and their year-old son John Paul were also hit but survived. The two were rushed to the Batangas Regional Hospital.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

16 women nabbed

BATANGAS CITY—Sixteen women, two of them minors, were arrested Tuesday during simultaneous raids by this city police, the Task Force on Night Clubs, and the City Social Welfare and Development Office of different barangays where nightclubs were showing nude and lewd shows.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Court orders arrest of 4 power execs for graft

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A regional trial court has ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to arrest four former officials of the defunct National Power Corp. who are facing graft cases.

Lawyer Norman Taloza, chief of the NBI District here, said they are now tracing the whereabouts of Marcelo Ganaden, Jose Bautista, Ernesto Narciso Jr. and Oscar Mina, who have assumed new positions at the National Transmission Co. (Transco), Napocor's spin-off company.

Judge Elmo Alameda of the RTC Branch 5 in Tuguegarao City issued the arrest orders against the officials. Alameda placed the bail bond for Ganaden at P30,000 and for his three co-accused at P15,000 each.

Alameda's order stemmed from two graft cases filed with the courts by the Office of the Ombudsman and the NBI, in connection with the respondents' alleged manipulation of contracts within Napocor.

The complaints were included in a petition filed by former Napocor employees who demanded the ouster of Ganaden for alleged rampant irregularities.

In one of the cases, Ganaden, Narciso and Bautista purportedly conspired to corner a project to assemble, mount and build steel towers using dummy contractors, and subsequently claimed for themselves the contract payments.

Ganaden was then the Napocor manager for Cagayan Valley, while Bautista and Narciso were sub-station manager and principal engineer.

In the other case, Ganaden and Mina allegedly conspired to overstate the amount of a contract involving the removal and hauling of excess soil from the switchyard of the Napocor sub-station in Tuguegarao City.

The four Transco officials are also facing suspension by the Ombudsman in connection with administrative charges of dishonesty and misconduct filed against them.

Ganaden was re-appointed as department manager for Transco's Mt. Provinces area, Bautista is now the division manager at the Cabanatuan City sub-station and Narciso is a principal engineer at the regional office in Baguio City.

The complai[illegible] Napocor employees, however, were dismissed and were not rehired by Transco. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Chinoy girl rescued from kidnappers

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A Chinese-Filipino girl, kidnapped on Aug. 21, was rescued by operatives of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) and the Nueva Ecija police on Friday in Gapan City, reports reaching this regional police camp on Monday said.

Robielyn Chua, 14, was rescued together with her nanny identified only as Amy and driver known only as Conrado.

The three were abducted in Caloocan City. The report said three members of a kidnap-for-ransom group were also arrested in the Sept. 5 operation in Barangays Bungo, Bulac and Baluarte in Gapan. Two were identified only by their aliases Armando Domingo and Chris Flores.

'Payoff'

The report indicated that ransom had been paid, quoting reports that the three suspects held cash "believed to be part of payoff money."

The report said the payoff happened at the Flying V gasoline station in San Miguel, Bulacan, south of Gapan.

Pacer and Nueva Ecija police operatives reported seizing from the suspects a Carbine rifle, a .38 cal. revolver, bullets and Chua's valuables.

Police said they also recovered the motorcycle used by the suspects when they picked up the ransom. The amount of the ransom was not mentioned in the report.

50 NPAs explode bomb in Masbate town hall

CAMP OLA, Legazpi City—About 50 members of the New People's Army (NPA) bombed the municipal building of Esperanza town in Masbate early Saturday.

In an interview with Capt. Marlon Ocfemia, spokesperson of 901st Infantry Brigade based in Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay, disclosed that the NPA rebels cordoned off the municipal building of Esperanza at around 6 a.m. while two of the guerrillas planted explosives inside the town hall.

At 7:30 a.m., the suspects set the explosives on with an electric detonator. The explosion destroyed the entire Esperanza municipal hall where various local government offices were housed.

Ocfemia placed the initial damage at P1 million.

He added that the rebels also destroyed the communications facilities of RCPI, which was just in front of the municipal building.

The guerrillas took the lone computer being used in the municipal hall.

No casualties were reported while no police personnel were around when the attack took place, he said. The raiders withdrew toward the Placer and Catain-gan Complex shortly after the attack.

Meanwhile, 901st IB commander, Brig. Gen. Pedrito Magsino admitted to the INQUIRER that they have no detachment in the area but has already directed his troops to hunt the guerrillas.

"This is what we have been telling about the deceitful acts of the rebels, showing off by hitting soft and weak targets," he said.

He said the reason for the need for a detachment was the very remote location of Esperanza, one of the farthest towns of Masbate. The town is about two hours of land travel from the city proper.

In Naga City, the public relations officer of the NPA in Camarines Sur warned media covering the armed conflict between the NPA and government forces to avoid being with government troops for their safety.

Ramona Caceres said in a phone interview that media workers riding in convoy with reinforcement troops could be incidental victims of crossfire if firefights erupt.

Caceres said the NPA unit in Naga had to issue the warning after they decided on two occasions last Monday against their plan to attack reinforcement forces because of the presence of media cars in the convoy.

The NPA rebels attacked on Sept. 2 the police post in Barangay Carolina, killing a policeman and wounding another one at about 11:15 a.m.

The NPA attack was the first in Naga City and the fourth this year in Camarines Sur.

"We were forced to call off the attack on two groups of reinforcement forces on the way to Carolina because we noticed the cars of Radio Mindanao Network and ABS-CBN in the firing line," Caceres said. *Ronnie Lorejo and Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cops, local execs won't back vigilantes

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police and local officials maintained that vigilantism will not be tolerated following reports that a group called the "Equalizer" has owned up the killing of a couple suspected of peddling drugs.

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, police director for Central Visayas, said police would not allow such a move, if it was true that the group was responsible for the ambush slaying of Gerry Palubio and his wife Josephine.

"If they will commit (an) act against the law, we will arrest them," he said.

Dumaguete Mayor Agustin Perdices said he received a call from a person claiming to be a member of the Equalizer a day after two suspects on board a motorcycle shot and killed the Palubio couple on Aug. 3 on Oracion Drive, Barangay Looc in this city.

The couple were suspected of peddling illegal drugs. Gerry's name was in the police order of battle as one of the suspected major drug dealers in the province.

Perdices said the member of the Equalizer also told him who their next target was. He said he told the caller that the group members should not put the law into their own hands.

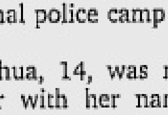
The mayor said there was danger that innocent individuals would fall victim to the group.

Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said he does not favor vigilantism but its existence might be an indication that many are fed up with the failure of law enforcers to run after drug personalities.

Jess Cañete, Commission on Human Rights special investigator, said vigilantism should not be tolerated because it is against the constitutional mandate of due process.

Supt. Constantino Barot Jr., Dumaguete police chief, said some of the drug personalities in the city have lain low apparently because of the Equalizer.

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 484 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Iggy's silence irks senators

From page A1

investigation of the Senate."

Pimentel sought a "full-blown voting" by the three Senate committees conducting the probe into whether Ignacio could invoke "this nonexistent right."

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, agreed to hold an executive session of members of the blue ribbon, constitutional amendments and banks committees to determine whether Ignacio could invoke such right.

Reprimand

Sen. Serge Osmeña twice reprimanded the lawyer of Ignacio, Antonio Zulueta, for coaching his client in answering the queries and in responding with an invocation of his right to privacy.

Pimentel, at one point, sought a five-minute break for Ignacio and his lawyer to allow them to look in the 1987 Constitution this right to privacy. Ignacio said the right to privacy was provided in the Bill of Rights and referred to one provision that stated that "every person should be secured in your own home."

Pimentel told Ignacio that his right to privacy could not be invoked in the Senate, adding that it was Ignacio, who came forward to claim he was Jose Pidal.

"In light of the recalcitrance of this witness to come clean before this committee on an issue which he himself embraced ... by acknowledging that he is Jose Pidal, he is trying to convert it into a private issue. I don't think we can allow that," Pimentel said.

The senator said the invocation of this right to privacy was "full of mischievous consequences" and could "frustrate the ends of justice, including the work of our committees" because other people to be investigated in the Senate may always invoke the same.

Ignacio said the inquiry was challenging his right to privacy because he had not been charged.

"As it now stands, there has been absolutely no concrete evidence presented," he said. "Furthermore, no charges have been filed. In addition there is no complainant of record. And last but certainly not the least, there is no witness to initiate an inquiry."

He was referring to Eugenio Mahusay Jr., former messenger of the First Gentleman and Lacson's erstwhile star witness, who has recanted his accusation against the First Gentleman that he owned the secret bank accounts of Jose Pidal and other dummies containing laundered money.

Security reasons

Ignacio said he opened bank accounts using an alias for "security reasons and legitimate purposes." He said he did not violate any law because at the time the accounts were opened and closed, the Anti-Money Laundering Law, which prohibits such practice, was not yet in effect. The Amla took effect in the second half of 2001.

For his part, Sen. Edgardo Angara told Ignacio that he couldn't hide "under the cloak of privacy," because the issue being investigated was of public interest.

Asked by Angara whether he would be ready to answer should the Senate committees disclose the facts, Ignacio replied in the affirmative.

Ignacio nevertheless confirmed Lacson's allegations that he had a bank account in Union Bank and the Bank of the Philippine Islands Family Bank, both on Perea Street in Makati. He said these accounts were no longer existing, contrary to the Lacson's claim.

Ignacio said he opened a BPI bank account in October 1997 and closed it in November 1998. This bank account was re-opened under Account No. 6615-00497-7 in November 1998 and was closed in October 2000.

At Union Bank, he said he opened an account, numbered 00073-001483-6, in December 1998 and closed it in August 2001.

San Francisco property

He again invoked his right to privacy when asked on details about his ownership of two pieces of property worth $4.6 million in San Francisco, California, which were under the names of the First Gentleman and the President.

Ignacio said he did not want to respond to questions on this because the Senate ethics committee in 1998 had already cleared then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when it conducted an inquiry into the ownership of these assets in the United States.

Likewise, he said the Office of the Ombudsman eventually cleared his sister-in-law.

But Osmeña reminded Ignacio that the Senate ethics committee, then chaired by the late Sen. Marcelo Fernan, did not clear then Senator Macapagal-Arroyo but forwarded the case to the Office of the Ombudsman as the 1998 election period was approaching.

All Ignacio could say about the assets in the United States was that the money he used as down payment came from money he inherited from his late mother, Lourdes Tuason Arroyo. These assets have also been sold, according to Ignacio.

He said he had asked his brother Jose Miguel to buy the two pieces of property for him, adding that it was Ms Macapagal who gave her husband the power of attorney for the transaction.

Osmeña told Ignacio there was no need for Ms Macapagal to do this because the First Gentleman was his sole trustee to the two pieces of property.

Osmeña also told Ignacio that while one could purchase a property in the United States and put it in a trust, this was the first time he heard of a husband and wife acting as trustees to the two pieces of property.

Annulment

Asked to explain the First Gentleman's statement that he bought the assets for Ignacio because the latter was then annulling his marriage to Marilyn Jacinto, he said that he did ask his brother to do this for him.

"At that time I thought if I disclose my properties it would prejudice the annulment proceedings," he said.

On his financial standing, Ignaco could only say that he was staying in the house owned by his mother in Quezon City and that he was renting an apartment in Bacolod and another in Makati.

He said that he was the president of LTA Corp. and that his sources of income did not only come from the sugar plantation in Isabela and the assets in the United States. Asked for details about these, he invoked his right to privacy.

Under questioning by Sen. Noli De Castro, Ignacio said his company, JJ Agricultural Corp., earned on the average P7 million a year.

On his Jose Pidal bank accounts in BPI and Union Bank, Ignacio admitted that he would withdraw cash in the millions.

He said these bank accounts contained money from business transactions and his personal money.

On the First Gentleman, Ignacio disclosed that he was the one who introduced his older brother to the investment house, Morgan Stanley. Ignacio said he invested $25,000 in Morgan Stanley in 1998-1999.

Osmeña then informed Ignacio that according to Morgan Stanley, the First Gentleman had a "triple A account" in the investment house, which meant that he had invested at least $5 million.

The First Gentleman, through his lawyer, denied having a triple A account with Morgan Stanley. In a statement, Jesus Santos said the First Gentleman did not even know the term triple A account and had to ask some friends for information.

Thaksin advice . . .

From page A1

"If she feels she is not alone and the economic community is backing her up, she can solve the economic problems sooner," he said.

The two leaders met in Malacañang and later visited the Villamor Air Base where Thaksin turned over the used planes to Ms Macapagal. Thailand is expected to donate a second batch of surplus military planes to the ill-equipped PAF in September 2004.

At the business forum, Thaksin credited the President with coining the term "Thaksinomics" at a June conference in Japan. The Thai leader, who holds a doctorate in criminal justice, said he felt "flattered and a little embarrassed" that Ms Macapagal, who holds an economics doctorate, had praised his policies.

The wealthy telecommunications magnate recalled that Ms Macapagal invited him to Manila to discuss ways in which "Thaksinomics" could be applied to help lift the Philippine economy, which has lagged behind Thailand's.

The Philippines was relatively unscathed by the 1997 crisis, while Thailand was badly hit. Yet, the Thai economy experienced a 5.3-percent growth in 2002 and a 19-percent growth in exports in the first half of this year. Analysts expect the Thai economy to expand by 5 percent in 2003, at least one percentage point higher than forecasts for the Philippines.

Thailand's per capita gross domestic product was around $2,100 in 2002, compared to around $900 in the Philippines, according to the Asian Development Bank. The Thai stock exchange enjoyed a $75-billion value turnover last year, double that in 2001.

The Thai baht finished 1998 at 36.69 to the US dollar, while the peso ended at 39.06 against the greenback that same year. Today, the baht remains steady at 40.7 to the US dollar, while the peso has fallen to 55.1 to the US currency.

Thaksin's strategy

Economists have credited Thaksin's strategy of boosting Thailand's domestic spending power and homegrown enterprises for his country's economic rebound. Thaksin is expected to easily win reelection in 2005 after a recent poll indicated that more than 70 percent of Thais were happy with his handling of the economy.

The Thai leader said "Thaksinomics" was founded on political stability and on ensuring that the poor were given the chance to share in economic success.

Asia's policy obsession with strong exports and direct foreign investments before the 1997 crisis had been unbalanced, he said, because it enriched only a few at the expense of many.

To bridge the widening gap between the rich and the poor, Thaksin said his government initiated bold grass-roots programs, such as a three-year debt suspension scheme for farmers and the allotment of 1 million baht for each village to encourage residents to engage in production.

PRESIDENT Macapagal walks with visiting Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand during a meeting at Malacañang.

EDWIN BACASMAS

"The village fund is used to create economic activities in the village. Through economic activities, income is generated. Through more income generated, there will be more economic activities. With more activities, there will be employment. Consumption, growth and multiplier effect will follow," he said.

In addition, Thaksin said his government gave tax incentives for new businesses and solved the problem of over-capacity in the export sector.

To alleviate poverty, Thaksin's government launched a one-million houses program for the poor. It also initiated a "health for all and all for health" program, which gave free medical treatment to the needy.

"Empowering the grass roots is not just a question of giving them the money. The government needs to give them a complete cycle of assistance and support ranging from credit lending, human resource development and technical assistance for product development," he said.

"All efforts will be in vain if our grass roots are deprived of the basic necessities in life and human security. To secure the future for the people, everyone must be free from want, free from hunger and poverty," Thaksin added.

He also defended his controversial crackdown on illegal drugs, in which more than 1,600 people have died, saying it was needed to provide the security needed for economic growth. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

Udong . . .

From page A1

brought Mahusay to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who later accused Arroyo of money laundering. Dy was also summoned at yesterday's hearing, but he was not called to testify.

The businessman said Dy brought to him late last year Mahusay who asked for employment. Mahusay worked in Carlos' farm in Cardona, Rizal.

Carlos said Mahusay's story was full of details as he was able to show some documents. Mahusay later retracted his statements against Arroyo.

Mahusay, in his revised affidavit, claimed he only had a bank document of Vicky Toh and a photo of Arroyo and Toh.

He said Carlos supplied the rest of the documents and that Carlos ordered him to make up a story against Arroyo, who had hired Mahusay as messenger.

Carlos denied this. "Why should I let him make up stories. He's an ordinary man. It's difficult to sell lies to the public" he said in Filipino.

He said he had no access to bank documents about the Jose Pidal account. "I often told him to stop the nonsense," Carlos said.

He denied Mahusay's claim that both of them stayed in a Makati hotel last month until Mahusay faced the media on Aug. 25.

Carlos admitted, as Mahusay had claimed, that they stayed at the Edsa Horizon Hotel in the week Lacson gave a privileged speech against Arroyo based on Mahusay's accusations.

But Carlos said he and Mahusay stayed at the hotel because they had come from a farm in Tanay, Rizal.

Carlos also admitted giving Mahusay a gun sometime on Aug. 19 or 20. But he said Mahusay was supposed to use this against snakes in the farm.

Mahusay had claimed that three police officials provided him protection while he was in the custody of Lacson.

Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia, Senior Supt. Gil Meneses and Supt. Almario Hilario had allegedly been keeping Mahusay before the witness was "rescued" by his family from Lacson's safe house in Tagaytay City. They were identified based on the description provided by Mahusay to police artists.

At a press conference, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said Chief Supt. Doroteo Reyes, PNP director for legal services, would look into the possible criminal and administrative charges against Zubia, Meneses and Hilario.

"The cases that will be filed against them will be based on the statement of Mahusay," Ebdane said.

The three officers were placed on floating status after they were implicated in the alleged rubout of Kuratong Baleleng gang members in Quezon City in 1995.

Director Eduardo Matillano, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief, earlier explained that active PNP officers like Zubia, Meneses and Hilario had no business lending their services to politicians, especially in the absence of the police leadership's authorization.

Peso falls to 55.13 vs dollar

From page A1

preciate further should the political situation worsen.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which attributed the volatility of the peso to political uncertainties, has warned currency speculators, particularly banks in the Binondo financial district.

"The market knows that if the peso drops beyond P55.20, the BSP would take action, whether to tighten monetary policy or apply a stronger moral suasion," said a trader.

For her part, President Macapagal-Arroyo lambasted ambitious politicians for engaging in "premature politics" that distract the government's attention from more pressing economic and social matters.

"Premature politics punishes the people, it opens divisiveness which feed perception of instability. Premature politics repel investments, attracts criminals and distracts government from public service," Ms Macapagal said in a speech.

She said ordinary Filipinos were the victims of premature politics because "their jobs are placed at risk, their incomes are eroded and their welfare are neglected."

Ms Macapagal said she would not join the "mudslinging that others want to start this early."

"I have too much to do for our national security and economy which are the important factors serving our people's interest," she said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Lawyer lectures senators on bank secrecy laws

From page A1

enacted these laws upon which our corporate culture and behavior are founded."

Without being prodded, she went on to point out that the confidentiality of bank transactions was mandated by banking laws, such as Republic Act No. 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), RA 6426 (Foreign Currency Deposits Law), RA 7653 (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Act), RA 8791 (General Banking Law of 2000) and RA 9160 (The Anti-Money Laundering Act).

Macalinao stressed that this legal obligation of Union Bank to its customers had been upheld "in the most recent case of Lourdes Marquez as a UBP Branch Manager versus then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto in case GR 135883 (on) June 27, 2001."

She went on with her lecture until Sen. Edgardo Angara cut her short, and told her to continue her spirited discourse in writing instead.

"Otherwise, we might ask you (on these laws)," said Angara, prompting Macalinao to say: "I'm ready to answer questions."

Unperturbed, Macalinao went on to say it was a violation of the provisions of RA 1405 for any bank officer or employee to disclose to any person information about the accounts of bank depositors.

At this point, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada interjected.

"I'm not asking for the account. I'm asking for provisions of the Bank Secrecy Law that prohibits the naming of the bank officers who accepted the account."

In reply, Macalinao admitted that the disclosure of which bank officers assisted a depositor in opening an account was not prohibited.

"But if you have to go through the process of going to a particular account, I'm sorry, Ma'am, we regret to inform you that we could not comply with that because it will expose ourselves to the pain of imprisonment for 10 years under the General Banking Law of 2000," Macalinao said.

Angara then asked her a hypothetical question: "What if Mr. [Ignacio] Arroyo allows you to disclose the one who authenticated the signatures? [And tells you to] go ahead."

A defiant Macalinao charged back: "I'm sorry, Mr. Senator, the depositor by the name of Mr. Jose Pidal has not given us any authority."

When Angara insisted, she said: "As a matter of fact, earlier on Mr. Arroyo signified that he has not waived his right to invoke the provision."

Before she could finish her answer, an impatient Angara bluntly asked Macalinao why was she "lawyering" for Ignacio.

"I'm not," she replied. "I would just like to state the truth."

Before Angara and Estrada lost their cool, Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, abruptly ended the discussion by turning over the floor to Sen. Robert Barbers.

After the hearing, Arroyo said the Senate committees investigating money-laundering charges hurled by Sen. Panfilo Lacson against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo will hold a closed-door meeting to decide on the fate of the inquiry.

Arroyo said his committee and the constitutional amendments and banks committees will meet to discuss, among other items, Barbers' motion to either suspend or terminate the hearings.

Barbers made the motion because he said Lacson had not come up with evidence against the First Gentleman. As a result, he said, senators could not ask "intelligent questions."

Barbers made the call even as the camp of Lacson, who is reportedly abroad gathering more evidence against the President's husband, finally submitted "13 pieces of evidence" to prove the senator's allegations against the First Gentleman. All of these were photocopies.

But Arroyo said he was surprised that not one of the senators attending yesterday's hearing, mostly from the opposition, asked questions about the evidence Lacson submitted.

"(That would have been good) if any of the senators around asked question on the documents. Nobody asked about it," he said.

Arroyo said the committees would also decide in their meeting whether Ignacio Arroyo could invoke the right to privacy.

Angara, Sergio Osmeña III and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had said during the hearing yesterday that the younger Arroyo invoke this right because he had come forward to claim that he was Jose Pidal.

"As of now, the situation is something like this. Senator Lacson wants time to present his evidence. At the same time, we have to study the Constitutional question [on the right to privacy]," Senator Arroyo told reporters.

The blue ribbon chair said that as of yesterday's hearing, "nothing substantial came out." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

NBI looking for Udong's bodyguard

Security man provided by Lacson eyed in heist

By Leila B. Salaverria

FIRST it was Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay who took the limelight. Now, it may be the turn of "Dagul," one of two security men provided to him earlier by Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

Dagul, who reportedly hails from Misamis Oriental, might be a member of a notorious bank robbery gang, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco revealed yesterday.

"We're checking if Dagul is a member of the Kuratong Baleleng group," said Wycoco, who noted that most members of the gang were from the province.

According to him, the NBI has gathered that the security escort provided by Lacson after Mahusay accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo of irregularities carried a licensed firearm and was a member of the defunct Philippine Constabulary.

Members of the criminal group are being eyed by the police as behind the recent bank robberies in Metro Manila, particularly at the Citibank Center at the Makati's Central Business District.

"The modus operandi of the robbery suspects is definitely similar to that of the Kuratong Baleleng," Wycoco told reporters. He, however, added that there were 30 or more groups within the gang.

Meanwhile, Secretary Jose Lina Jr. of the Department of the Interior and Local Government said the Citibank robbery and other recent crimes were similar to the series of crimes in 1997 and 1998.

"There is a recurring pattern. These kind of events take place prior to presidential elections," he noted.

Earlier, the police said they were looking into reports that money from robberies and other crimes would be used in next year's elections.

Ping should be probed

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE SENATE should investigate the confession of Francisco "Kit" Mateo, former henchman of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, that he committed murders on orders of Lacson when both were still in the military.

Mateo, who was dying of cancer, made his confession at his hospital bed. Two or three weeks later, he died.

But before he succumbed to cancer, Mateo retracted his confession. He said he was prodded by a fellow inmate, Ambet Antonio, to fabricate charges against Lacson.

* * *

Mateo's confession and subsequent retraction were featured in "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo," a public service program I host every Saturday (6 to 7 p.m.) on RPN 9, last Saturday and Aug. 30.

The Senate could take off from those episodes. The investigation could be conducted to write laws that would prevent future abuses committed by people in uniform.

Although Mateo made the retraction, many people who were able to watch both episodes believe that Mateo's first declaration was more believable than his second, the one where he retracted.

* * *

In law, Mateo's retraction would carry more weight than his first declaration.

However, the investigation would not focus on the guilt or innocence of Lacson, but on how future abuses by law enforcers could be prevented.

I received phone calls and text messages urging me to call on the Senate to investigate Mateo's first declaration.

* * *

The Senate is already burdened with the "Jose Pidal" exposé of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, but the dying man's declaration against a member of the chamber is more serious than any money laundering exposé of the "honorable" senator.

People are waiting for the reaction of the Senate to Mateo's dying declarations.

The citizenry wants an inquiry into Mateo's allegations, and it wants the probe conducted immediately.

If the Senate doesn't move, then it will buttress the perception of many people that most of its members are afraid of Lacson.

* * *

But how does the Senate conduct an investigation of the veracity of Mateo's allegations when he's already dead?

The Senate can summon the people mentioned by Mateo in his first and second declarations: a certain Sergeant Salamat who is still with Lacson as his driver/bodyguard; Ambet Antonio, who said that Mateo talked to him before he made the confession.

The Senate can summon ABS-CBN reporter Ana Marie Fuderanan, who interviewed Mateo in his first confession. Fuderanan could be asked what she thought about Mateo's confession; i.e., was he telling the truth, how was his condition when he spilled the beans on his former boss, why she was chosen by Mateo over the other reporters.

* * *

Mateo's reasons for making the retraction will never be known because he has taken them to his grave.

But the members of the Senate are very intelligent since they ask very intelligent questions like, "*Udong, ikaw ba'y nagsasabi ng totoo kung ikaw ay galit* (Do you tell the truth when you're angry)?"

O, di ba magagaling ang ating mga Senador? They would not be wasting people's money with all those investigations in aid of reelection, *este*, legislation because they ask very intelligent questions.

* * *

Louise Pala, wife of slain Davao City broadcaster Juan Pala Jr., suspects the man behind her husband's assassination was Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte might have had a hand in the killings of notorious hoods in the city—I'd like to stress "might"—but he is not stupid to order a broadcaster killed. Especially so when he and Jun Pala were political enemies.

What would Duterte gain by having Pala killed? He would be the natural suspect.

* * *

Pala was a controversial figure who stepped on many toes.

He was a media man, but at the same time he also dabbled in politics, a no-no combination, if you ask me.

Pala was also an enemy of the New People's Army because he was one of the leaders of the "Alsa Masa" movement that drove NPA hit squads out of Davao City in the 1980s.

In short, Pala had many enemies both as a media person and as a politician.

Second hirit na!
Meralco Refund

Para sa mga customer na kumonsumo ng
101 hanggang 300 kilowatthours
base sa April 2003 bill.

Sa lubusang paglilingkod ng MERALCO sa mamamayang Pilipino, tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang pagbigay ng refund na sinimulan noong June 2003.

Sino ang kasama sa Phase 2 refund?
Simula September hanggang December 2003, ang mga registered at active residential at general service customer na may konsumong mula 101 kWh hanggang 300 kWh base sa April 2003 bill ang makakatanggap ng refund.

Magkano ang makukuhang refund?
Ang halaga ng refund ay base sa kilowatthour na konsumong kuryente ng registered customer sa loob ng panahon mula February 1994 (o simula ng kontrata sa Meralco) hanggang May 2003.

Saan at kailan makukuha ang refund?
Nakalagay sa inyong September 2003 bill kung anong buwan naka-schedule ninyong matatanggap ang refund. Kung buwan na ng inyong refund, makikita ang mga detalye tulad ng saang branch, kailan at magkano ang makukuhang refund. Abangan ang electric bill na may refund details.

Paano makukuha ang refund?
Siguraduhing kumpleto ang dala ninyong dokumento para makuha ang refund.

Kung ang service contract ay nakapangalan sa inyo (bilang registered customer) dalhin ang:
a. **Current bill na may refund details**
b. Isang (1) valid ID na may litrato at pirma tulad ng:
Driver's License, PRC License, Passport, New SSS/GSIS/TIN ID
c. **Xerox copy ng inyong valid ID at ng current bill na may refund details**

Kung kayo ang kinatawan o authorized representative ng registered customer, dalhin ang:
a. **Current bill na may refund details**
b. **Authorization letter** na pirmado ng registered customer at kung saan nakasulat ang inyong pangalan bilang kinatawan o representative
c. **Isang (1) valid ID ng registered customer** na may litrato at pirma
d. **Dalawang (2) valid ID ninyo** (bilang kinatawan o authorized representative)
e. **Xerox copy ng mga sumusunod:**
Dalawang (2) valid ID ninyo
Isang (1) valid ID ng registered customer
Current bill na may refund details

Maari na ring dalhin ang mga sumusunod bilang valid ID na may litrato at pirma ninyo:
a. **Philhealth ID**
b. **Senior Citizen's ID**
c. **Postal ID**
d. **Firearm's License**
e. **Original NBI Clearance**
f. **Credit Card with photo & signature**

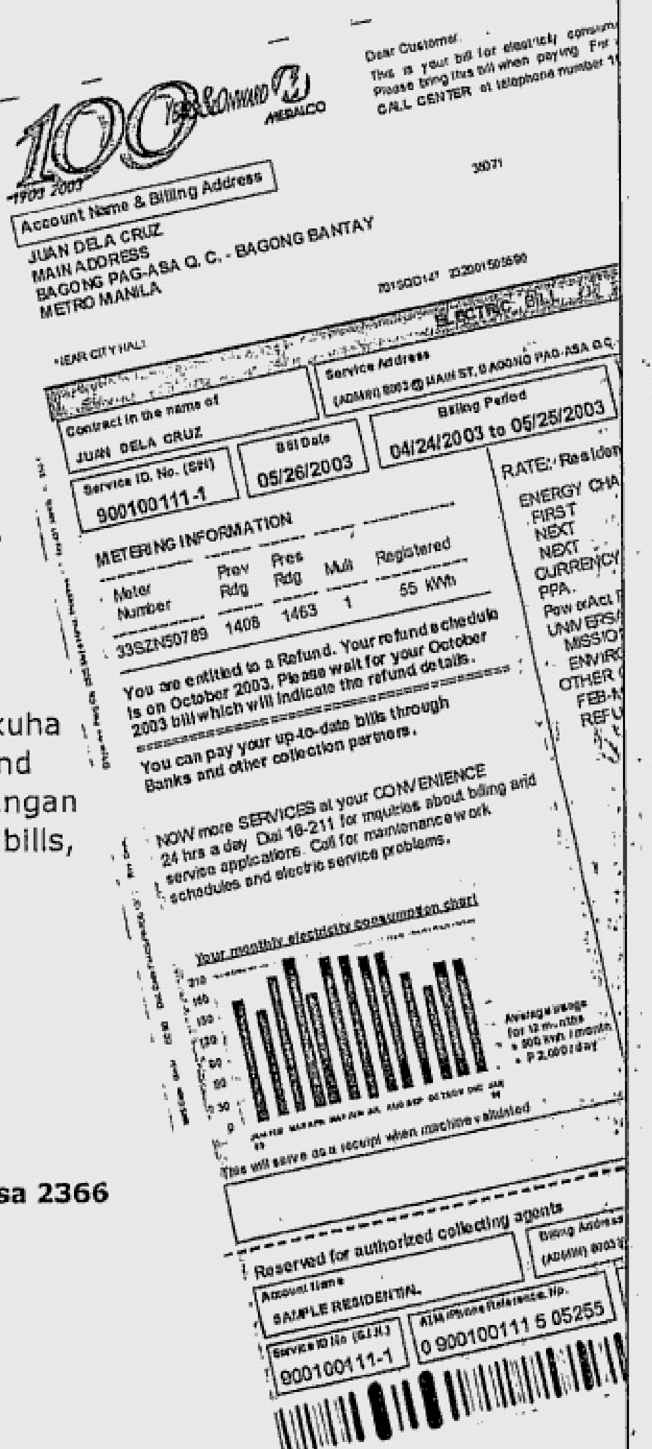
May ibang paraan pa ba para makuha ang refund?
Kung ayaw ninyong maabala at pumila pa sa refund center, ibabayad pa rin sa inyo ang halaga ng refund. Ibabawas ang halaga ng refund sa mga susunod ninyong electric bills.

Ito na ba ang huling refund?
Hindi pa. Lahat ng mga Meralco customer ay makakakuha ng refund. Para sa mga hindi pa nakakakuha ng refund ng June at nitong September to December 2003, abangan lang po ang aming abiso sa mga susunod na electric bills, print ads at announcements.

MERALCO REFUND CENTERS
Branch at extension offices
LUNES hanggang BIYERNES
8 a.m. hanggang 5 p.m.

Para sa Refund Information:
Tumawag sa: Refund Hotline 1622-8888 or 632-8888
Mag-text sa: POWERTXT, type in MERREFUND at ipadala sa 2366
Mag-Email sa: refund@meralco.com.ph

100 YEARS & ONWARD MERALCO
1903-2003


Dear Customer:
This is your bill for electricity consum
Please bring this bill when paying. For
CALL CENTER at telephone number 1
Account Name & Billing Address
JUAN DELA CRUZ
MAIN ADDRESS
BAGONG PAG-ASA Q. C. - BAGONG BANTAY
METRO MANILA
ELECTRIC BILL
Service Address
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33SZN50789
1408
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1
55 KWh
You are entitled to a Refund. Your refund schedule is on October 2003. Please wait for your October 2003 bill which will indicate the refund details.
You can pay your up-to-date bills through Banks and other collection partners.
NOW more SERVICES at your CONVENIENCE
Your monthly electricity consumption chart
This will serve as a receipt when machine validated
Reserved for authorized collecting agents
Account Name
SAMPLE RESIDENTIAL
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FOUR DIGIT
6 6 3 0
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
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METRO

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Real estate firm sues Belgian ambassador for not paying rent

By Tarra Quismundo and Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE REAL real estate company Grundy Holdings Inc. has sued the Embassy of Belgium, and Belgian Ambassador Christiaan Tanghe, allegedly for not paying rent.

In a petition filed before Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 61 in March, Grundy Holdings owner Alfredo Henares is asking the Belgian embassy to pay $90,000 (roughly P4.8 million) which represented a year's lease—with 12 percent legal interest—of a house on Acacia Street, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City.

Henares is also asking the embassy to pay P1 million in exemplary damages and another P1 million in attorney's fees.

But in April, the Belgian envoy, through his lawyers, filed a motion to dismiss the case. He said that as a diplomat, he is immune from any suit.

The envoy cited a provision in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations which said that "a diplomatic agent shall enjoy immunity from criminal jurisdiction of the receiving state."

In their opposition to the envoy's motion to dismiss, Henares and his lawyers maintained that the Belgian envoy and his government "waived and relinquished their immunity from suit by entering into a contract."

The 1,775-square meter upscale property was rented to the Belgian Embassy through a two-year lease contract with the property's former owner, Eduardo Santiago, in December 2001.

The contract stipulates that the monthly rent of $7,500, or $90,000 per year, shall be paid in the beginning of the year.

But Santiago died in 2002, halfway through the two-year contract which Santiago and the embassy signed in 2001. In 2002, the Belgian government changed its ambassador.

Tanghe replaced Ambassador Roland Van Remoortele.

Santiago's heirs, Herminia Vitug and Rose Marie Montano, acquired the property and then sold the three-bedroom house to Henares in September 2002.

In his papers submitted to the court, Henares said he and Santiago's heirs informed Tanghe of the transfer of ownership.

But in his pleadings, Henares said the new envoy refused to pay rent despite the letter Henares had sent to demand payment for the 2003 rental.

Henares said in his complaint that Tanghe refused to pay because the repairs which Remoortele requested had not been completed.

But Henares insisted in his complaint to the court that the repairs being referred to by Tanghe had been completed even before he bought the property.

Manila fire leaves 400 families homeless

By Leila Salaverria

FOUR hundred families were rendered homeless in Manila after a six-hour fire destroyed 150 houses with over P20 million worth of property.

The nearby General M. Hizon Elementary School was also partially damaged.

FO1 Guillermo Firmalino said the fire, which reached general alarm, the highest, began at 9:29 p.m. on Sunday at the house of Leonardo Fernandez on Tindalo Street in Sta. Cruz.

Firmalino said that a malfunctioning fluorescent light bulb could have sparked the blaze.

The fire quickly spread to the other houses, which were made of wood and light materials. By 10:51 p.m., the fire reached its peak.

It was put out at 3:19 a.m. yesterday.

Firmalino said almost the whole block of Tindalo corner Mayhaligue streets, which is on the border of Sta. Cruz and Tondo, was affected.

Twelve classrooms and two bathrooms of the Gen. M. Hizon Elementary School were damaged, while five classrooms were partially burned.

No one had been reported injured, said Firmalino.

Arson investigators said the fire lasted so long and affected so many houses because the narrow streets in the area made it difficult for firefighters to reach the burning houses.

The weak water pressure in the area also hampered firefighters' efforts to contain the blaze.

NOW HOMELESS, residents of a fire-stricken community in Sta. Cruz, Manila, pick through smoldering heap that used to be their homes, salvaging useful debris with which to rebuild their lives.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Buy your own guns, Lina tells barangay chiefs

By Margaux Ortiz, Tina Santos, Tarra Quismundo and Edson Tandoc Jr.

DEPARTMENT of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday put a damper on the arming of barangay chiefs when he told the elders that they would have to buy their own firearms.

Commenting on the national police's directive allowing selected local officials to carry guns, Lina said that the national government does not have the resources to buy arms for all barangay officials.

"We even have difficulty providing service firearms to our policemen, how much more to 42,000 barangay chairmen?" said Lina, who also chairs the National Police Commission (Napolcom).

Lina said the barangay government could set aside a budget for the acquisition of guns.

"Or they will have to buy their own firearms," he added.

Lina said that under the local government code of 1991, barangay heads are actually authorized to carry licensed firearms.

In Manila, Mayor Lito Atienza said that once barangay officials are authorized to bear guns, they may turn the city into a wild, wild, West.

"Imagine having that many people carrying firearms in Manila... some of them lacking the necessary training or discipline," Atienza said in a statement, adding that it could pose problems in the city which has 897 barangay heads.

"When it comes to crime prevention and effective maintenance of peace and order, nothing beats a proactive police force that is in constant and close coordination with the barangay units and the citizenry," he said.

A Napolcom employee who lives in Tondo, echoed Atienza's sentiment.

The employee, who asked not to be named, said that the head of their barangay is a dreaded ex-convict.

"I can only just imagine the things he could do with his gun," the employee said.

But according to some local chief executives, there is nothing wrong with barangay leaders bearing arms in their areas.

Napolcom to commission 6,000 lawmen this year

By Margaux Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Police Commission (Napolcom) will have to recruit 2,700 more new policemen by the end of the year to meet the requirements of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Lucila Omega, Napolcom director for personnel and administrative services, said the PNP was seeking 6,000 additional men for it to combat crime in the country.

In May, 20,086 aspirants took the PNP entrance examination but only 3,308 or 16.47 percent passed.

People wanting to join the police force need to pass the entrance test to qualify for the rank of Police Officer 1, the entry level position of the PNP.

After passing the test, Omega said, aspirants must then complete and hurdle the required training and physical examination.

New policemen receive a salary of P12,000 a month.

According to Omega, the Calabarzon region, comprised of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Quezon, was in need of the most number of recruits.

The region has requested for 850 new policemen.

Meanwhile, the Central Luzon and Western Visayas police offices have asked the Napolcom for 650 and 530 more officers, respectively.

The National Capital Region, on the other hand, is requesting for 400 new law enforces, the official said.

Commissioner Linda Hornilla, Napolcom officer-in-charge, said the very low passing rate in the examinations in May could be due to the commission's continuing effort to upgrade its standards in order to professionalize the police force.

METROBRIEFS

Cop kidnapped

PO1 CASEN R. Ote of the Western Police District's Special Weapons and Tactics Unit has allegedly been abducted by eight armed men in Manila. Ote, 27, of Sampaloc, Manila, had been driving his Toyota car (PNR 487) on P. Paredez Street near the Quezon Boulevard at 1:15 a.m. on Sunday when four vehicles blocked his way, said SPO2 Mario Salonga. Eight men with M-16 rifles and handguns were then seen dragging Ote to one of the vehicles. *Leila Salaverria*

ATM smashed

BROTHERS Benjamin and Jesse Koyoka and their cousin Reynaldo Landao, were arrested allegedly for breaking the window of an automated teller machine after they failed to recover their ATM card from the machine. SPO4 Romulo Monteclaro said the three men went to a PCIBank ATM branch on Taft Avenue in Pasay City on Sunday to withdraw money. But the machine failed to issue the ATM card. Upset, the three shattered the glass door of the ATM booth. They were arrested and charged with damage to property. *Alcuin Papa*

Girl assaulted

PO1 ARNOLD Lising of the Navotas Drug Enforcement Unit has been accused of sexually harassing a 12-year-old girl inside a police station on Sept. 5. Lising, was with the girl inside the DEU office in Navotas, when the lawman allegedly touched the girl's genitals at 12:40 a.m. The girl was in police custody after she was caught with sachets of suspected shabu last month. Yesterday, Malabon Prosecutor Magno Pablo found probable cause in filing a case against the lawman. Lising has been disarmed and detained on orders of DEU chief Police Insp. Ferdinand Balgoa. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Body found

THE BODY of maintenance worker Daniel Gulaya was found inside a sewage tank at the Shangri-La Car Park, in Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City, early yesterday morning. Police said that the victim failed to report when his shift ended at 10 p.m. on Sunday. Emelito Manzano, a coworker of the victim, later found the victim's slippers floating in the sewage tank. The workers drained the tank and recovered the body at around 4:30 a.m. *Alcuin Papa*

Businessman claims slow poisoning in Crame jail

By Christian Esguerra

A SWISS-FILIPINO businessman yesterday expressed fear that he was slowly being poisoned to death inside his detention cell in Camp Crame.

Rene Knecht, 66, said he already lost at least ten teeth since he was jailed on drug charges at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's detention cell in October.

At one point, a tooth just fell off while he was brushing his teeth, Knecht claimed.

He said he has only five front teeth left.

Knecht, whose family owned Rose Packing Co. Inc., said he was also losing body hair.

"I was about to put on deodorant the other day and I was shocked to see that I got no more hair in my underarm," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

KNECHT

After consulting with doctors from the University of the Philippines, he said he was told that the hair loss and falling teeth could indicate that he could be suffering from "arsenic poisoning."

"They said this type of poisoning slowly kills its victim," he said.

Doctors have already taken his hair and blood samples.

Director Eduardo Matillano, CIDG chief, yesterday dismissed Knecht's allegation as mere "paranoia."

"He's been a drug user, and he keeps on inventing things," Matillano told the INQUIRER.

If his suspicion were true, Knecht said that the alleged poisoning could have something to do with his case against the Cainta government.

The businessman has accused town officials of "squatting" on his 31,000-square-meter property.

To purportedly pressure him into dropping the complaint, Cainta police allegedly planted 13 grams of shabu at his house in Victoria Valley in Antipolo during a raid last year.

Cops told: Brush up on people's rights

FOR A Manila councilor, law enforcers need to brush up on civilians' rights.

Edward Maceda of Manila's 4th District proposed before the City Council a resolution asking the Commission on Human Rights to conduct seminars on constitutional and human rights for Western Police District lawmen.

The resolution, which asks for the seminar to be conducted twice a year, has been passed on first reading and referred to the City Council's Committees on Laws, Justice and Human Rights, and Peace and Order, Fire, and Public Safety.

In the resolution, Maceda said that "it is necessary for our policemen to be updated on laws and jurisprudence," and that the city council must adopt "measures that protect and enhance the right of people to human dignity."

WPD spokesperson Gerry Agunod said that such seminar would be beneficial to policemen.

Agunod said that several batches of WPD members have attended similar seminars organized by City Hall.

"It should be part of the continuing legal education of policemen," said Francesca Custodio-Manzano of the People's Law Enforcement Board. *Tarra Quismundo*

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Jong Arcano with wire reports

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In the Governors' division, the participants are Alaska's Cablay, Coca-Cola's Jeffrey Cariaso, FedEx's Gherome Ejercito, Ginebra's Mark Caguioa, Purefoods' Rey Evangelista, Red Bull's Willie Miller, San Miguel's Mente, Shell's Chris Calaguio, Sta. Lucia's Francis Adriano and Talk 'N Text's Jimmy Alapag.

In the Commissioner's division, the participants are Alaska's Don Allado, Coca-Cola's Rafi Reavis, FedEx's Yancy de Ocampo, Ginebra's Jun Limpot, Purefoods' Raymundo, Red Bull's Harp, San Miguel's Ildefonso, Shell's Anthony dela Cruz, Sta. Lucia's Dennis Espino and Talk 'N Text's Taulava.

"Perhaps, people will say that Asi Taulava, for instance, is a favorite because he's the leading MVP contender. But guys like Davonn Harp and healthy Dennis Espino or Danny Ildefonso will give him a lot of stiff competition.

Kerby Raymundo, because of his number of moves, should also be exciting to watch," Eala said.

"In short, there is really no one with a definite edge and that's what makes things exciting," he added.

As an added twist, the players can name anybody as their coach.

"They can call their wives or their parents. Anybody can be their coach," said Eala.

But all the help will be restricted to the sidelines.

Within the court, it's just the two contestants and the hoop.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Bucs vs Eagles; 9 a.m. (r-5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Are you ready for some football? Defending champion Tampa Bay starts its title-retention bid against NFC rival Philadelphia.

BASKETBALL. NBA Greatest Games-Bulls vs Celtics, Game 2, 1986 Eastern First Round; 7:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Watch in awe as Chicago's Michael Jordan makes playoff history by pouring 63 points at the Boston Garden.

FIBA Euro Basket 2003; 8 p.m.; Solar Sports—The superstars of Europe take center court.

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Third Placer DENIEL CAUSO San Sebastian College	Third Placer JOEL CHOLO BANAWA Colegio de San Lorenzo
Fourth Placer ALBERT ONG Colegio de San Juan de Letran	Fourth Placer CINDY ATAYDE Sapang Palay National High School
Fifth Placer MICHAEL ADARLO National University	Fifth Placer AMRAM EZRA RIVAS Philippine Normal University
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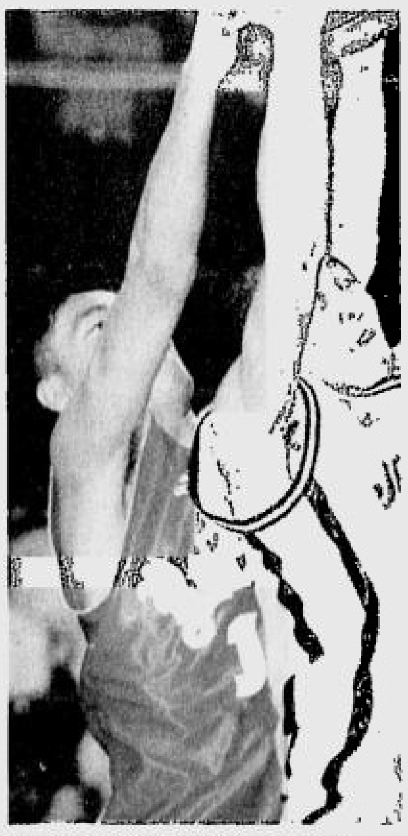
Stag Najorda cops season MVP plum

By June Navarro



NAJORDA (left) blocks a shot by JRU's Mark Barboran. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SAN SEBASTIAN'S Leomar Najorda finally captured the Most Valuable Player award on his final year in the 79th National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The 6-foot-3 Najorda, last year's Finals MVP, edged Arjun Cordero of San Beda for the coveted plum after getting the highest player's all-around value among nine closely competing aspirants.

Najorda finished with 23.5 PAV points to nip Cordero, who garnered 22.08 playing for the Lions, who got bundled out of the Final Four.

Aiming for a three-peat, the Stags will meet the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers armed with a twice-to-beat privilege in tomorrow's Final Four.

The other top 10 contenders were JRU's McDonald Santos (21.97), Al Magpayo of St. Benilde (21.89), Letran's Ronjay Enrile (21.78), SBC's Ronnie Bughao (21.72), SBC's Jerome Paterno (21.07), Mark Borboran of JRU (20.44) and CSB's Ron Capati (20.13).

Cordero, Santos, Magpayo and Enrile were named to the Mythical Team along with Najorda while the rookie of the year award went to Bughao. Jerome Paterno was adjudged most improved while Magpayo copped the defensive player of the year award.

San Beda's Jay-R Taganas walked away with the MVP plum in the juniors division and joined teammate Rogemar Menor, CSB's Gino Villame, Letran's Marlon Bituin and Jeffrey Morial in the Mythical selection.

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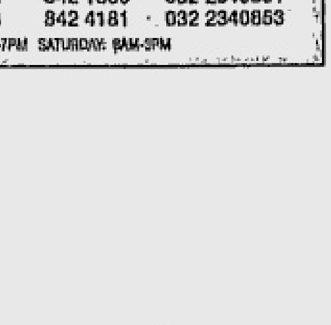
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In the Commissioner's division, the participants are Alaska's Don Allado, Coca-Cola's Rafi Reavis, FedEx's Yancy de Ocampo, Ginebra's Jun Limpot, Purefoods' Raymundo, Red Bull's Harp, San Miguel's Ildefonso, Shell's Anthony dela Cruz, Sta. Lucia's Dennis Espino and Talk 'N Text's Taulava.

"Perhaps, people will say that Asi Taulava, for instance, is a favorite because he's the leading MVP contender. But guys like Davonn Harp and healthy Dennis Espino or Danny Ildefonso will give him a lot of stiff competition.

Kerby Raymundo, because of his number of moves, should also be exciting to watch," Eala said.

"In short, there is really no one with a definite edge and that's what makes things exciting," he added.

As an added twist, the players can name anybody as their coach.

"They can call their wives or their parents. Anybody can be their coach," said Eala.

But all the help will be restricted to the sidelines.

Within the court, it's just the two contestants and the hoop.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Bucs vs Eagles; 9 a.m. (r-5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.). ESPN—Are you ready for some football? Defending champion Tampa Bay starts its title-retention bid against NFC rival Philadelphia.

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Games-Bulls vs Celtics, Game 2, 1986 Eastern First Round; 7:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—Watch in awe as Chicago's Michael Jordan makes playoff history by pouring 63 points at the Boston Garden.

FIBA Euro Basket 2003; 8 p.m.; Solar Sports—The superstars of Europe take center court.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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Third Placer DENIEL CAUSO San Sebastian College	Third Placer JOEL CHOLO BANAWA Colegio de San Lorenzo
Fourth Placer ALBERT ONG Colegio de San Juan de Letran	Fourth Placer CINDY ATAYDE Sapang Palay National High School
Fifth Place MICHAEL ADARLO National University	Fifth Placer AMRAM EZRA RIVAS Philippine Normal University
Sixth Placer SILVERIO ABASOLO Colegio de San Juan de Letran	Sixth Placer WILLBERT PILARTA Marist School

All FINALISTS will compete in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship Grand Finals to be held from September 26 to 28, 2003 at the SSS Main, East Ave Quezon City.

Bright Minds Read.
SuperFerry

Stag Najorda cops season MVP plum

By June Navarro

SAN SEBASTIAN'S Leomar Najorda finally captured the Most Valuable Player award on his final year in the 79th National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The 6-foot-3 Najorda, last year's Finals MVP, edged Arjun Cordero of San Beda for the coveted plum after getting the highest player's all-around value among nine closely competing aspirants.

Najorda finished with 23.5 PAV points to nip Cordero, who garnered 22.08 playing for the Lions, who got bundled out of the Final Four.

Aiming for a three-peat, the Stags will meet the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers armed with a twice-to-beat privilege in tomorrow's Final Four.

The other top 10 contenders were JRU's McDonald Santos (21.97), Al Magpayo of St. Benilde (21.89), Letran's Ronjay Enrile (21.78), SBC's Ronnie Bughao (21.72), SBC's Jerome Paterno (21.07), Mark Borboran of JRU (20.44) and CSB's Ron Capati (20.13).

Cordero, Santos, Magpayo and Enrile were named to the Mythical Team along with Najorda while the rookie of the year award went to Bughao. Jerome Paterno was adjudged most improved while Magpayo copped the defensive player of the year award.

San Beda's Jay-R Taganas walked away with the MVP plum in the juniors division and joined teammate Rogemar Menor, CSB's Gino Villame, Letran's Marlon Bituin and Jeffrey Morial in the Mythical selection.

NAJORDA (left) blocks a shot by JRU's Mark Barboran. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

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I didn't waste my time on exotic potions, charismatic healers or ill-fitting wigs. As a balding man, my choice of a hair & scalp center was simple: Svenson International. For over 22 years, the Svenson experts have been looking after the needs of Filipinos suffering from the frustrations of hair loss. The Svenson treatments are proven to eliminate Dihydrotestosterone, the main source of hair loss, and to help hasten the hair regrowth process. Their advanced non-surgical hair replacement re-creates your hair's natural look, feel and thickness. Call us today at Svenson International and book your FREE CONSULTATION where we will attend to all your hair loss and baldness concerns.

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Host Lanao wants new Palaro date for full roster

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THIS time it's about ensuring maximum participation—not peace and order.

And to achieve this, Lanao del Norte officials want the already twice-postponed 2003 Palarong Pambansa moved to a later date next month to take advantage of the semestral break and guarantee full attendance from students athletes.

The Philippine Sports Commission, acting on instructions from Malacañang, had recently announced the holding of the sportsfest in Tubod on Oct. 5-12.

With the peace and order problem out of the way, provincial government spokesperson Richel Umel said the major issue now is maximum participation and resetting the Palaro to Oct. 17-25 would solve this.

And the PSC seemed open to a new date following a request from the Department of Education to stage the games in late October or early November because its regional directors have a DepEd congress on Oct. 7.

The agency, which is also preparing for the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games in Mati, Davao, is reportedly thinking of holding the Palaro and the MFG, also set for Oct. 17-25, simultaneously.

Originally scheduled on May 4-11, the Palaro was reset to June before being postponed indefinitely due to fighting in Mindanao.

"The provincial officials led by Gov. (Imelda) Dimaporo want full participation from the country's 15 regions and show the rest of the nation that Tubod is the most ideal place to hold the Games," said Umel.

He added that the province didn't stop its preparation for the Games, which will be held at the world-class Mindanao Civic Center (MCC), built by Lanao del Norte to the tune of P500 million.

"There is absolutely no report of fighting the past three months and the peace talks are well under way," said Umel. "We are more concerned now with having all regions in the country represented."

The PSC has reported that more regions are ready to submit their entries to join the Games, whose P40-million budget has already been released to the agency.

Meanwhile, the First Marine Brigade based in Lanao del Sur was tasked to provide security measures at the Palaro venues and billeting areas.

Lt. Col. Ramiro Alivio, deputy brigade commander, met with Lanao del Norte provincial administrator Jesus D. Tubio Jr. in a three-hour briefing and site inspection at the MCC and billeting venues in the towns of Maigo and Kapatagan.

Umel said different working committees will meet Sept. 10 to discuss details of the preparation activities.

Hot Archers shoot down Falcons' bid

GAMES THURSDAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
1:30 p.m.—Adamson vs FEU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs UE (Srs)
6 p.m.—UST vs UE (Jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

LA SALLE shot down Adamson's bid for a Final Four slot with a decisive 82-74 triumph yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Makati Coliseum.

Thriving well under pressure, the Archers, champions from 1998 to 2001, destroyed the Falcons' zone defense with a remarkable display of outside shooting to the delight of an overflow crowd.

The win improved La Salles' record to 7-5, while Adamson, which took its 15th straight loss to the Archers since 1996, dropped to 5-7. The win also assured La Salle of at least a playoff for the final seat in the semis with two more games to go.

Ateneo (10-3), FEU (9-3) and UE (8-3) are already in the Final Four. The top two teams at the end of the eliminations will enjoy the twice-to-beat advantage in the crossover semis.

"We're right on target for a Final Four slot," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. La Salle meets nemesis Ateneo on Sept. 13 and UE on Sept. 18 both at the Araneta Coliseum.

Mac Cardona scattered 28 points, including five of La Salle's season-high 14 triples. Tyrone Tang and Cardona had six triples each in the first half as the Archers took a slim 36-35 edge.

"They shot very well. Our gamble did not pay off," said Adamson mentor Luigi Trillo, who was La Salle's point guard when Adamson last beat the Archers, 61-60, on Aug. 3, 1996.

Adamson still has a chance to get into the Final Four in a playoff with La Salle, but to do this, the Falcons have to win their last two games and pray that the Archers also lose their two remaining matches.

The Falcons, backed by an army of cheerleaders, kept the game close behind Mark Kong, Ramil Tagupa and Richard Alonzo until Joseph Yeo caught fire.

In the junior division, Adamson defeated La Salle Zobel, 62-52, for a 9-2 record. La Salle dropped to 6-4. Ateneo nipped Santo Tomas, 79-77, last Saturday for a 10-1 record.

Scores:

LA SALLE 82—Cardona 28, Yeo 15, Tang 11, Casio 10, Gaco 6, Sharma 6, Cabatu 3, Ramos 2, Benitez 1, Cua 0, Gavino 0, Gatchalian 0.

ADAMSON 74—Tagupa 19, Alonzo 12, Cabahug 11, Kong 10, Abadia 7, Hale 6, Tiongco 6, Bono 2, Poloyapoy 1.

Quarters: 21-19, 36-35, 63-53, 82-74.

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

ADAMSON'S Mark Abadia and Ramil Tagupa harass La Salle's Mac Cardona.

SPORTSWATCH

Pop Cola PBL contender

POP Cola is going to be an instant title contender. That's the impression of PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad based on the Pop Cola lineup competing in the 2003 Second Conference starting next month. Pop Cola has acquired the rights to some players from the now-defunct LBC team, including Alex Compton, making it a strong threat to the league powerhouses headed by reigning titlist Welcoat. Other teams participating in the coming conference are Montana Pawnshop, Nutri-Licious, Blu Star Powder and ICTSI. Expected to back up Compton are former LBC Panthers Ralph Rivera, Al Magpayo, Nicole Uy, Harold Sta. Cruz, Ricky Calimag, Ronald Capati, Froilan Baguion and Joe Dominguez. Former Batangas Blades and LBC Panthers mentor Nash Racela will call the shots for Pop Cola. Racela is one of the assistants of Coke coach Chot Reyes in the PBA. "Considering the legacy of its sister teams in the PBA, especially the Coca Cola Tigers, I'm sure they're going to be a force to reckon with right in their first outing in the league," said Trinidad. "They're going to pull some surprises."

N. Dame bags Coke title

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Notre Dame blanked Kidapawan National High, 2-0, last Saturday to bag the local title in the 20th Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament at the Kidapawan Pilot School field. Carlito Segovia scored both goals as Notre Dame earned the right to meet the M'Lang elimination winner for the North Cotabato crown and a slot in the all-Cotabato finals. The M'Lang tournament unwraps on Sept. 11 with five teams, led by defending champion North Cotabato champion M'Lang National High, vying for honors. Bulakanon National High finished third.

In the bag for Bumgarner

ROSARIO, Batangas—Frontrunning Michelle Bumgarner of M&M Racing beat back the challenge of Matteo Guidicelli of Team Cebu-CRG-Demvels in the last five laps to rule the seventh leg of the 2003 Shell Super Karting Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Only 15, the lone female karter in the fold kept her poise against Guidicelli, who posted the fastest time of 1:15.987 in the fourth lap. She grabbed the lead for a good five laps later in the race. Victory for Bumgarner, who clocked 19:54.741, a mere 1.644 seconds ahead of Guidicelli, assured her of the Open class crown.

Firebird stag derby set

THE ANNUAL Firebird 7-Stag Derby tomorrow and Friday (Sept. 10 and 12) at the Araneta Coliseum promises to be one slambang affair featuring first-class gamefowls. Majority of the entries will come from 8,500-plus stags banded by Ucap last March. Entries from NCA and other breeder organizations are also expected to compete. Promoter Biboy Enriquez said the Ucap-sponsored stag derby will kick off the Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2003 race. Submission of entries is set today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum green gate.

Auto group film premier

THE NEWLY organized Philippine Formula Autosports Foundation will host the premier of the film "2 Fast, 2 Furious" at 8 p.m. tomorrow at Louie's THX at Mile Long on Amorsolo Street in Makati City. The premier will serve as the soft launch of the non-profit foundation dedicated to developing Filipino racing talents, said chairman Tom Pastor.

Santillan TKOs Regatuna

ILOILO CITY—Former Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) welterweight champ Rev Santillan scored a second round technical knockout win over Tata Regatuna in front of his adoring provincemates in Guimbal town. With IBF superbantam king Manny Pacquiao and GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva watching at ringside, the southpaw Santillan unleashed a strong right jab to Regatuna's ribcage with 2:03 gone in the round, sending the Bukidnon fighter down for good. The win improved Santillan's record to 17-1-1. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

China sending top athletes

CHINA will be sending a strong team to the Asian Athletics Association championships slated Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal track and field oval.

Gao Kelian, Gao Shuying, Wu Lingmei, Li Yanfeng, Gu Yuan and Ma Ningare will be defending the crowns they won in the 2002 staging of the event in Sri Lanka.

Kelian is the 20-km walk queen who outpaced her teammate, Jian Zingli, to rule the event in 1:36: 57 against Jian's 1:37:02. She was also the silver medalist in the Korean Asiad.

Shuying is the women's pole vault champion last season. She registered a new games record of 4.20 m to beat Japan's Ono Masumi who also made the same mark but with more attempts. Two months later at the Busan Asian Games, Shuying cleared the bar at 4.35 m to reset the old mark.

She will be the woman athlete to watch in this biennial championships supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Adidas, Milo, Colgate Palmolive, DOT, Café Adriatico and the City of Manila.

Lingmei ruled the triple jump with a leap of 13.83 m over Sokava Mariya (13.81) of Uzbekistan, but did not compete in Busan. Another Chinese, Huang Quiyan, copped the gold in Korea with a better effort of 14.28 m, a new Asian Games mark.

Yanfeng heaved the disc to a distance of 60.06 m to beat India's Kaur Harwant who settled for the silver with a throw of 57.60 m.

Yuan is both the Asian Championship winner and Busan gold medalist in the hammer throw. Her 71.10-m effort in Sri Lanka, a new championship mark, was better than her throw of 70.49 m in Busan.

Ning ruled the javelin even last year where she defeated compatriot Xue Jun, 57.17-56.04 m.

OPBF head calls Sultan loss a 'shame'

EVEN the OPBF head found the outcome unacceptable.

Despite knocking down his rival and dominating the fight, Filipino Dondon Sultan still lost his crack at the Oriental-Pacific Boxing Federation welterweight title of Japan's Hiroshi Watanabe by a split decision yesterday in their 12-round fight at the Rainbow Hall in Nagoya, Japan.

Sultan (8-3) floored Watanabe, the World Boxing Council (WBC) No.4 (19-2) in the sixth round and controlled the fight from there, but the two Japanese judges scored it in favor of their compatriot.

OPBF president Frank Quill of Australia, who was at ringside, said the controversial outcome was a "shame" to the OPBF and advised Sultan's camp to file a protest so the OPBF can call for a rematch.

"Frank Quill advised us to file a protest. He said he was ashamed that this happened again in an OPBF match," said sportsman Tony Aldeguer.

In other fights involving Filipino fighters, light flyweight Tatsuo Hayashida knocked out Joseph Villasis in the sixth round while superbantam Masanori Sugita stopped Ariel Austria in the 5th. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Rey Danseco, Contributors*

Pagunsan sets pace with 3-under 69

SPURRED by birdies on two of the first three holes, Juvic Pagunsan tamed the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club with a three-under-par 69 yesterday to grab the lead in the 2nd Riviera Open amateur golf championship in Silang, Cavite.

Pagunsan, who arrived only last Sunday from Queensland, Australia with the other members of the Nomura Cup team, didn't need a practice round to conquer the hazard-laden course under perfect playing conditions and open a one-stroke lead over Korean Lee Seong Ki.

On a day when the fancied Jerome Delariarte took a triple-bogey 8 on the second hole and soared to a 78 for 11th place, another member of the Nomura Cup squad, Marvin Dumandan, matched par 72 to occupy third place among the 21 starters in the championship division.

Marc Lopez, the Davao-based Southwoods mainstay, bogeyed the last two holes and settled for a 74 that put him in fourth place, a stroke ahead of ex-pro Dave Hernandez of Calatagan who capped a 75 with a birdie on the 18th.

Felipe Judan went up by four strokes over Roberto Rapadas in Class B.

Next tennis icon

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I KNEW it would come. The first time I saw him play, Andy Roddick immediately struck me as one with a future. He was 18 then, speeding like a train to his US Open junior title. Three years later, he was a Grand Slam winner when he pocketed the men's US Open yesterday.

"My family, my friends, they are all here," said Andy, who turned 21 during the US Open week, in his victory speech. "I couldn't miss this day."

It was the day to end all days, the day that he affirmed himself as the next American tennis icon. His 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 victory over Juan Carlos Ferrero gave birth to a new star, one ready to fill the void vacated by the retired Pete Sampras and the tiring Andre Agassi.

Sampras, holder of a record 14 Grand Slam titles and 64 singles crowns, bid a tearful farewell at ceremonies kicking off the US Open. He did the right thing; at 32, Pete is old fogey in a game that requires spurts and grunts all the time.

And, in all honesty, too, Agassi might have made his last stab at glory. He lost to Ferrero in the semifinals, his legs of nearly 33 summers finally showing signs of muscle fatigue. Like Sampras, Agassi ought not to be ashamed to say goodbye. Like Sampras, he also did so many great things for the game, not to mention that he, too, had won numerous Grand Slam titles, aside from also having fathered a child with, well, Steffi Graf.

Let the changing of the guards begin.

Andy Roddick, a brash Nebraskan, who has now somewhat put his temper under check—thanks mainly to his coach, the cool and mild-mannered Brad Gilbert—looks every inch the perfect replacement. He has the agility of Agassi, the resiliency of Sampras. And he has added a potent spice to that: a lightning for a serve. Yesterday, Andy Roddick scored the last three points of the match on three aces.

"It is an absolute privilege to win the US Open trophy," said Roddick.

How absolute, indeed, can Roddick be. Yesterday, he fired 23 aces to Ferrero's 7. Even Ferrero himself acknowledged Roddick's absoluteness. "I admit I was not in the game," said Ferrero, "but Andy played so well and I would not have been able to beat him even if I played my best today."

This, from the same man who won the French Open, and who eliminated Agassi and Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt on the way to the finals.

Ferrero, No. 3 to Roddick's ranking of No. 4, appeared ready to bounce back in the third set after yielding a fiercely fought second set to fall two sets behind. He scored superb winners on nine of 11 occasions that he rushed the net in the early going of the third.

But then, he blew it in the seventh game, bungling two break points to hand Roddick a 4-3 lead. After Ferrero lost his serve on the eighth on a double fault, it was but a matter of time before the Spanish Armada would completely be sank.

After Ferrero opened the ninth with a long forehand return, Roddick saw the haze in the horizons clearing. He didn't only seize the opportunity. He tore everything—prey and all—apart. Suddenly, like a conquering warrior gone berserk, Andy fired three aces in a row averaging 141 mph each. And then, realizing he had become the US Open champion, he sank to his knees and, as all humans do, succumbed to his emotions. Didn't Hitler first cry before he shot himself to death?

Andy Roddick won $1 million for the effort lasting 1 hour 42 minutes. Cool, huh? Yes, but you must realize, however, that prior to that victory, Andy had strung up 18 straight wins. Hey, that's also something to crow about.

You're looking at a kid up for a long reign, fellas.

So, rest well now, Pete, as you sit by the fireside, nursing that long-stemmed glass watching Popeye on TV. From the looks of it, the turnover rites turned out fine.

AMERICA'S NEW STAR

Roddick wins US Open in style

RODDICK cries unabashedly after beating Ferrero, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3. AFP

NEW YORK—Andy Roddick strolled into the interview room and made a statement before one question could even be asked.

"No more, 'What's it feel like to be the future of American tennis?'" he declared.

After beating Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-3, Sunday to win the US Open, there is no question Roddick is America's new star—not just one in waiting.

Roddick chose the ultimate American tennis stage to make that leap, capping a tournament that began with a goodbye to Pete Sampras, who won his record 14th Grand Slam title at last year's Open.

"I don't think you could have written a script any better," Roddick said. "Starting it off with Pete's retirement. ... It was just too good."

He was just too good.

Roddick rode his rocket of a serve to his first Grand Slam victory in his first major final, completing a sensational summer on the hard courts.

"It was not a surprise for me," Ferrero said. "If he serves so good, it's not easy to beat him. I think I played a really bad match today. I didn't do my tennis. I didn't hit the ball aggressive like yesterday. Maybe because he served so hard all the time and I didn't feel a rhythm on the court."

RODDICK celebrates in his family's box. Behind him is coach Brad Gilbert. AFP

Ferrero, playing for the fourth straight day after rain interfered with the schedule last week, didn't exhibit the same energy that has earned him the nickname "Mosquito" for the way he scurries around the court. A day earlier, the Spaniard had beaten Andre Agassi to take over the No. 1 ranking in the world.

Roddick turned 21 during the Open, and Ferrero is 23, making for the youngest combined ages of US Open finalists since Sampras beat Agassi in 1990.

Roddick won at the very tournament he often came to as a child, watching the greats from the cheap seats of the National Tennis Center.

"I came here so much when I was younger," he said. "I still don't believe that I've won the US Open. It's so farfetched for me."

Roddick blasted three straight aces to end it, giving him 23 for the final and a tournament total of 123. He won his season-leading 19th straight match, and he's 37-2 since hiring Brad Gilbert, Agassi's former coach, after a first-round loss at the French Open. He has won a tour-best six titles this year and moves up to a career-best No. 2 in the rankings.

"There's been a lot of pressure on him. This will shut a lot of people up that he was all hype," US Davis Cup coach Patrick McEnroe said. "We knew he had it. It's a great day for him and for American tennis. It's a great passing of the baton."

Look how far Roddick has come in so short a time.

Last Christmas, the entertainment of choice in the Roddick household was a video of Andy playing in a national junior tournament in Columbus, Ohio, at age 13.

"He was a pip-squeak. He had no size and he had no serve," big brother John said. "We rolled on the floor laughing watching it." *AP*

France, Greece enter last 8

TURKEY's Hidayet Turkoglu (5) is restrained by his teammates during a brawl with Croatian players. AFP

LULEA, Sweden—NBA champion Tony Parker scored a game-high 21 points as France beat Slovenia, 88-82, Sunday, joining Greece, Lithuania and Spain in the quarterfinals of the European Basketball Championship.

France finished atop the Group A standings after its third straight win and will meet an undetermined opponent in the last eight at Stockholm's Globe Arena on Wednesday.

Parker, who became France's first NBA champion last season with the San Antonio Spurs, led his team in scoring for the first time after a 10-point effort against Italy the day before. He also had three assists.

Laurent Foirest and Tariq Abdul Wahad of the Dallas Mavericks, the first Frenchman ever in the NBA, had 19 points each.

Ivica Jurkovic led Slovenia with 15 points at Coop Arena, where a sparse crowd including former Boston Celtics great Larry Bird watched the game.

At Sodertalje, shooting guard Juan-Carlos Navarro scored 22 points and last year's NBA rookie of the year Pau Gasol of the Memphis Grizzlies added 20 as Spain stayed unbeaten in Group C with a 75-67 win over defending champion Serbia and Montenegro.

Navarro had two key baskets and four free throws in the fourth quarter.

Tempers flared in the last half minute, and Serbia and Montenegro's Dejan Koturovic, already fouled out, joined the melee from the bench.

"They didn't like to lose and they put up a fight," said Gasol, the tournament's top scorer with a 26.6-point average.

Three players from each team were ejected.

At Norrkoping, Lithuania beat Germany 93-71 to win Group B with a 3-0 record. Saulius Stombergas scored 28 points, including five 3-pointers, and Ramunas Siskauskas 19 for Lithuania.

Dirk Nowitzki of the Dallas Mavericks led Germany with 19 points.

Before the game, Lithuania coach Antanas Sireika said his team had a secret weapon that would win the game for them.

It turned out the secret weapon was 40 minutes of almost perfect basketball.

At Boras, Greece rallied from a 22-9 deficit in the first quarter to defeat Ukraine 79-73 for its third straight win in Group D.

- Solar Sports telecasts the games on Channel 29 (Skycable/Homecable) and IBC-13. *AP*

Shock reach finals

AUBURN Hills, Michigan—Swin Cash scored 20 points and Deanna Nolan added 17 before leaving with a back injury as the Detroit Shock earned a berth in the WNBA Finals with a 79-73 win over the Connecticut Sun.

Detroit, which swept Connecticut in the best-of-three series and 6-0 for the year, will play the winner of Monday night's decisive Game 3 in the Sacramento-Los Angeles series. The finals begin Friday.

In Los Angeles, California, Mwadi Mabika scored 24 points as the Los Angeles Monarchs rolled to a 79-54 victory over the Sacramento Monarchs and evened the WNBA Western Conference finals at 1-1.

The Sparks led by as many as 28 points before halftime, allowing coach Michael Cooper to rest many of Los Angeles' starters for Game 3 on Monday at Staples Center.

Lisa Leslie sat for the final 10 minutes and scored 16 points, Tamecka Dixon had 14 points in 29 minutes and point guard Nikki Teasley tied Mabika with a team-leading eight rebounds and added 10 assists. *AP*

Tway rules Canada tilt

HAMILTON, Ontario—Bob Tway two-putted for bogey on the third hole of a playoff with Brad Faxon in the Canadian Open on Sunday to become the eighth player 40 and over to win a PGA Tour event this year.

The 44-year-old Tway survived a close call on the second extra hole—the par-5 17th—when the 42-year-old Faxon, long one of the best putters in the world, missed a 4 1/2-foot birdie try after a brilliant 50-yard bunker shot.

Tway earned $756,000 for his eighth tour title and first since the 1995 MCI Classic.

Japan's Hidemichi Tanaka, the third-round leader at 7 under, shot a 71 to drop into a tie for fourth with South Korea's K.J. Choi (66) at 6 under.

Meanwhile, world number two Ernie Els cruised to a six-stroke victory in the European Masters on Sunday, increasing his lead in the order of merit. *AP*

RP chesser shares lead

FILIPINO International Master-candidate Joseph Sanchez made short work of Spanish IM Jose Maria Rodrigo Sunday night to share the lead with six others after the seventh round of the Open International de Ajedrez VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea chess championship in Madrid, Spain.

Unruffled by his loss in the fifth round, the 32-year-old Sanchez posted his sixth win after beating Rodrigo in 23 moves of a Center Counter game.

The Cebuano shared the top spot with top seed IM Jan Gustaffson of Germany, Grandmaster Bogdan Lalic of England, IM Javier Moreno Camero and Fide Master Santiago Alonso of Spain, IM Sasha Belezky of Ukraine and IM Salvador Alonso of Argentina.

GM-candidate Mark Paragua beat Bulgarian Tihomir Dovramadjiev in 35 moves of an English Opening to tally 5.5 points going to the last two rounds.

With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino

Races back at Santa Ana

HORSE racing action returns to the Santa Ana Park today with a program of nine races starting at 5:45 p.m.

The lineup sets off six days of racing at the Makati racing venue.

Spicing up the busy schedule are three additional evening cards of nine races each from Wednesday through Friday and two weekend cards of 13 races each on Saturday and Sunday.

Highlight of the racefest is the running of the fifth and penultimate leg of the 2003 Philracom Imported Stakes series for foreign-bred gallopers on Sunday.

Competing in the P450,000 race are Cosanne, Crystal Show, Footwear, Jade Louise, Just Dance, Neat Laurel, Of Note, Revolting and You Know That. Distance is 1,600 meters.

PRCI has scheduled for Thursday (Sept. 11) the final day of declaration for its Sept. 13 and 14 cards.

Miami upset

MIAMI—The Houston Texans rallied for a shock 21-20 victory over Miami in the opening weekend of NFL play on Sunday, handing the Dolphins their first defeat at the start of a season in 12 years. *AP*

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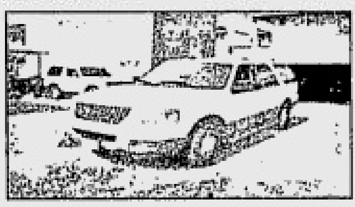

FORD EXPEDITION 2003
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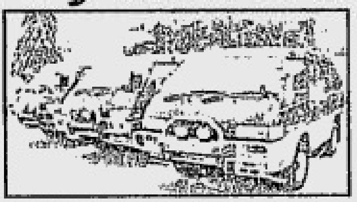

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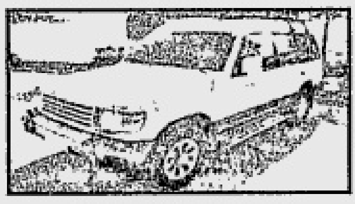

PAJERO 2.5 L (5 UNITS)
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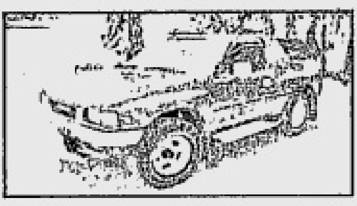

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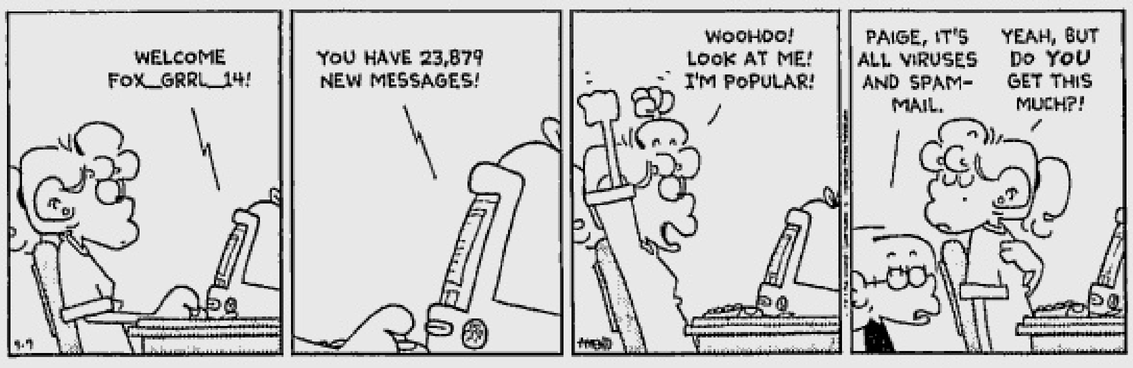
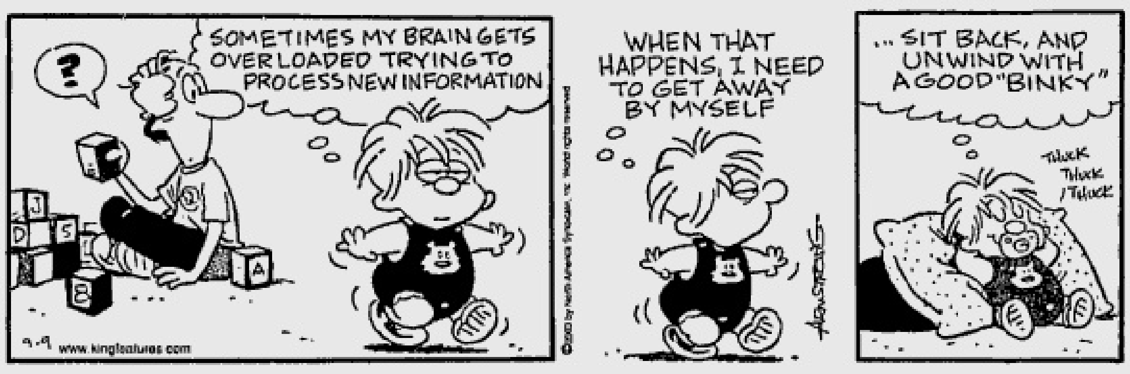
BY BILL AMEND


WELCOME FOX_GRRL_14!
YOU HAVE 23,879 NEW MESSAGES!
WOOHOO! LOOK AT ME! I'M POPULAR!
PAIGE, IT'S ALL VIRUSES AND SPAM-MAIL.
YEAH, BUT DO YOU GET THIS MUCH?!

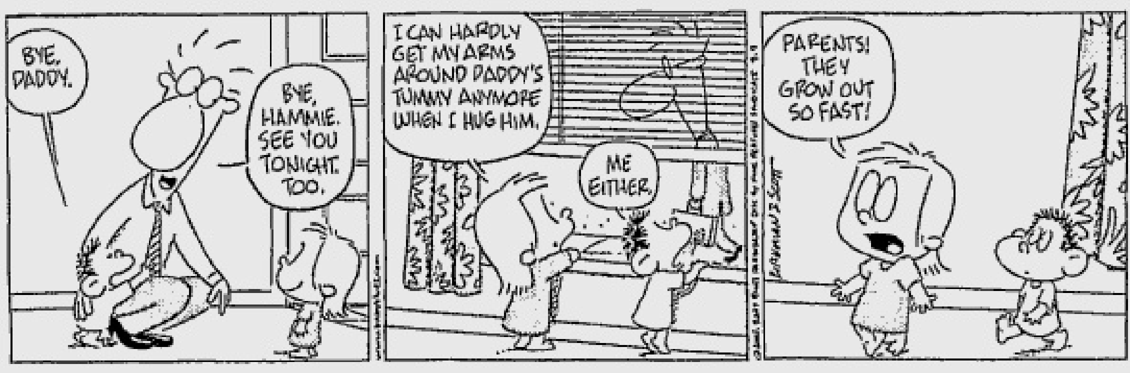
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


?
SOMETIMES MY BRAIN GETS OVERLOADED TRYING TO PROCESS NEW INFORMATION
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, I NEED TO GET AWAY BY MYSELF
... SIT BACK, AND UNWIND WITH A GOOD "BINKY"
THUCK THUCK THUCK
www.kingfeatures.com

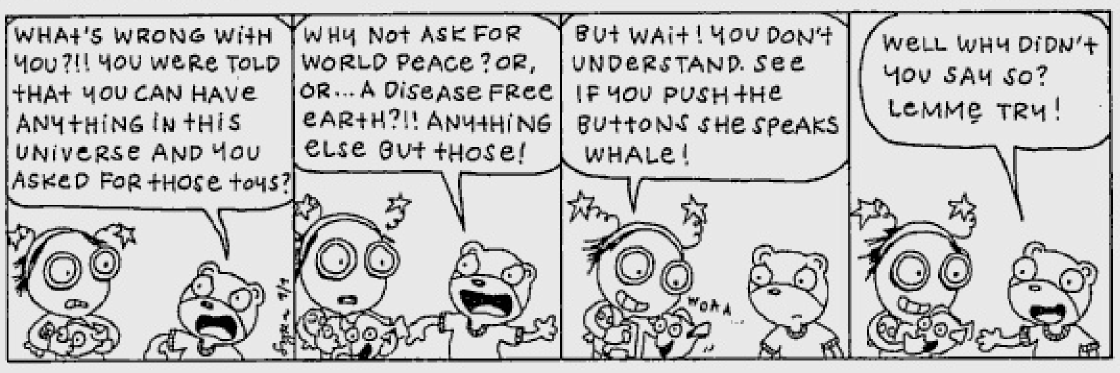
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BYE, DADDY.
BYE, HAMMIE. SEE YOU TONIGHT. TOO.
I CAN HARDLY GET MY ARMS AROUND DADDY'S TUMMY ANYMORE WHEN I HUG HIM.
ME EITHER.
PARENTS! THEY GROW OUT SO FAST!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!! YOU WERE TOLD THAT YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE AND YOU ASKED FOR THOSE TOYS?
WHY NOT ASK FOR WORLD PEACE? OR, OR... A DISEASE FREE EARTH?!! ANYTHING ELSE BUT THOSE!
BUT WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. SEE IF YOU PUSH THE BUTTONS SHE SPEAKS WHALE!
WOHA
WELL WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO? LEMME TRY!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are attracted to challenges, partly because they give life spice. You are intelligent and introspective. Others find you sexy, and yet you question this. Your privacy is important to you. Nevertheless, you know how to present yourself in public. Great changes lie ahead this year. You will find the excitement you crave.

Birthdate of: Adam Sandler, actor; Hugh Grant, actor; Macy Gray, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be extra-patient with co-workers today. Everybody feels today's buildup before tomorrow's Full Moon. You are not the only one who is a bit tense.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20): Children react with each Full Moon. Today they might be more lively and excitable. Naturally, this requires extra patience and understanding on your part.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Avoid making extravagant promises to family members, especially parents. It might seem to be the easiest way out at the moment, but in the long run, it isn't.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're tempted to leap into political or religious arguments today. A word of caution is advised. It is easy to be too optimistic today. Moderation is always best.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Don't go overboard spending money today. It will seem like a fun thing to do. But later, when you have to account for what money you don't have, you will wish that you had saved your cash!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Tomorrow's Full Moon opposes your sign. That's why discussions with partners and close friends are a bit tense today. It is pointless to try to win an argument; don't even try.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): No matter how hard you work today, you feel that large institutions or the government undermines your efforts. Sometimes you just can't beat the system.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't make promises to lovers, romantic acquaintances or even children today. You will be inclined to go overboard and promise more than you can deliver. Stay realistic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If authority figures or bosses seem to promise you more than you expected, be cautious. They could be overestimating what is possible. (You've been here before.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): No matter how fervently you believe in something, try to avoid religious and political arguments today. There are none so deaf as those who are firmly entrenched in their views.

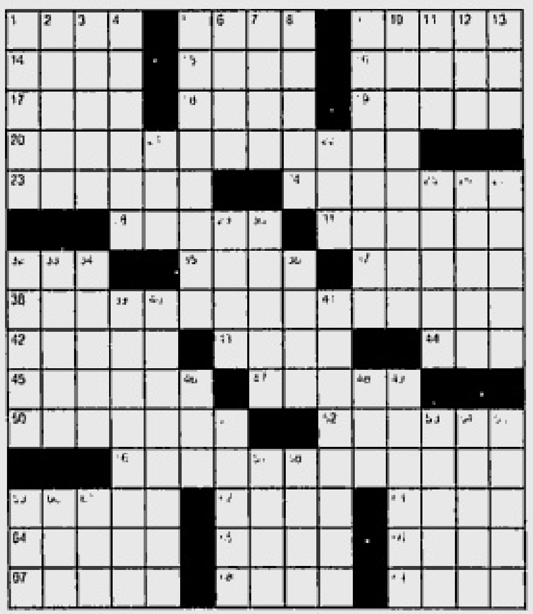
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't be too quick to give away your half of something today. You might think you don't need it, but later, you will wish you had it. Err on the side of caution.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Because tomorrow's Full Moon is in your sign, today you feel restless, agitated and excitable. Do whatever you can to remain calm and steady.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ancient fertility god
5 Sprouts bean
9 Marsh of mysteries
14 Uncivil
15 Mimic
16 Synthetic fiber
17 Bellicose deity
18 Round dance
19 Verbalize
20 Two bars
23 Singer Pete
24 Embrace
28 Satellite of Jupiter
31 Sinbad or Popeye
32 Thar __ blows!
35 Napoleon victory site
37 Case-harden
38 Two bars
42 Point in question
43 Twixt 12 and 20
44 __ longa, vita brevis
45 "Tristram Shandy" author
47 Puts aside
50 Sea cow
52 Cottonwoods
56 Two bars
59 Filler piece
62 Words of understanding
63 Earnest request
64 Of the ear
65 "Silkwood" star
66 Space-saving abbr.
67 "Now We Are Six" author
68 Williams and Koppel
69 Duryea and Rather

DOWN
1 Copper-zinc alloy
2 Emanations
3 Designer Simpson
4 Author of "Gil Blas"
5 Indian prince
6 Resting atop
7 Social misfit
8 Actress Kelly
9 Trademark anesthetic
10 Canine warning
11 Ms. MacGraw
12 Quadrennially prominent grp.
13 Undivided
21 Blue Hen St.
22 E.R. staffers
25 Wing part
26 More tender
27 Squeeze
29 Tear
30 Peruvian mountains
32 Earthquake
33 "__ la vista, baby!"
34 German city
36 Out of port, but not wine
39 Of two continents
40 Available for leasing
41 " _ from Mars"
46 Poetic contraction
48 Golfer Ernie
49 Hit with a blackjack
51 Formal proclamation
53 Mediterranean island nation
54 Bounding main
55 Embossed emblems
57 Arthur of tennis
58 Require
59 Houston or Rayburn
60 On the __ vive
61 Internet add.



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

9/9/03

Monday's Puzzle Solved

T	A	P	S	■	A	D	E	P	T	■	A	R	I	A
O	B	O	L	■	C	E	L	L	O	■	L	A	N	D
A	L	P	S	■	T	A	B	O	O	■	L	I	F	E
S	E	P	A	L	■	R	A	T	T	L	E	D	O	N
T	R	E	M	O	R	S	■	■	S	O	L	■	■	■
■	■	D	E	F	Y	■	J	O	Y	O	U	S	L	Y
A	D	O	■	T	A	B	O	R	■	P	I	Q	U	E
R	E	V	S	■	N	E	I	G	H	■	A	U	R	A
K	L	E	I	N	■	A	S	Y	E	T	■	E	E	R
S	E	R	G	E	A	N	T	■	L	I	S	A	■	■
■	■	■	N	A	G	■	■	S	P	E	C	K	L	E
S	N	A	P	P	E	D	U	P	■	R	H	E	A	S
E	U	R	O	■	N	A	V	A	L	■	E	D	I	T
A	L	E	S	■	C	R	E	T	E	■	M	I	R	E
S	L	A	T	■	Y	E	A	S	T	■	E	N	O	S

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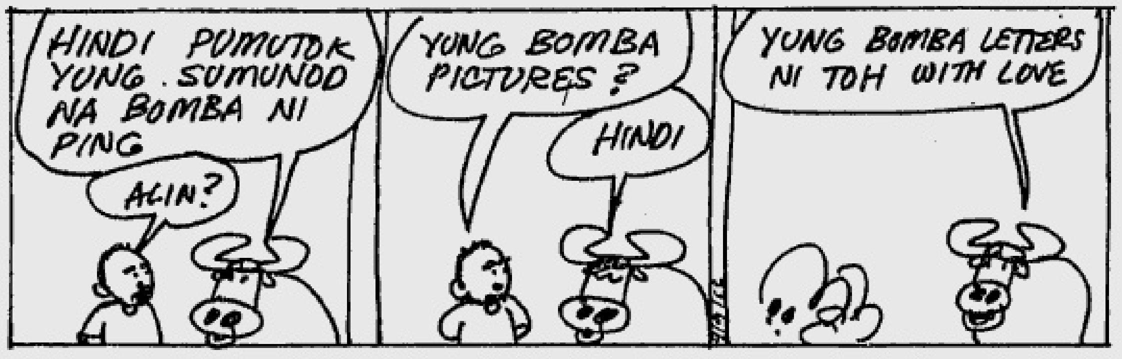
9/8/03

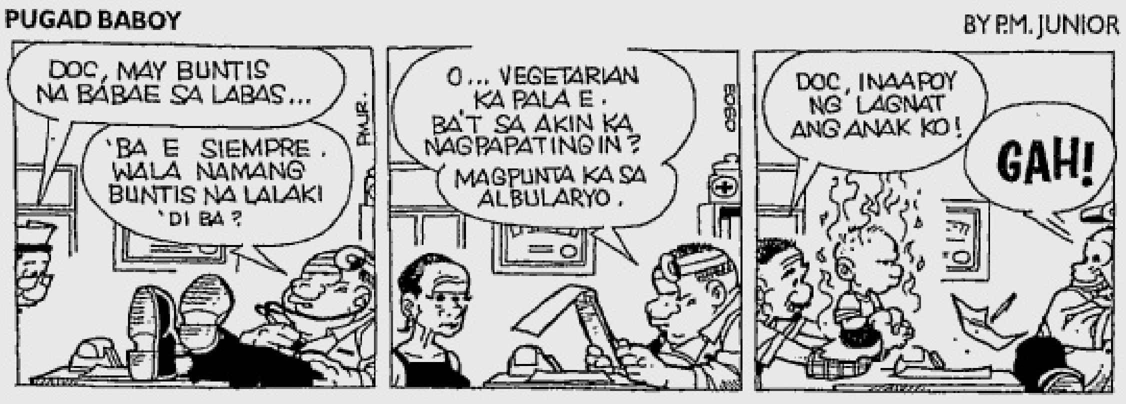
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI PUMUTOK YUNG . SUMUNOD NA BOMBA NI PING
AKIN?
YUNG BOMBA PICTURES ?
HINDI
YUNG BOMBA LETTERS NI TOH WITH LOVE

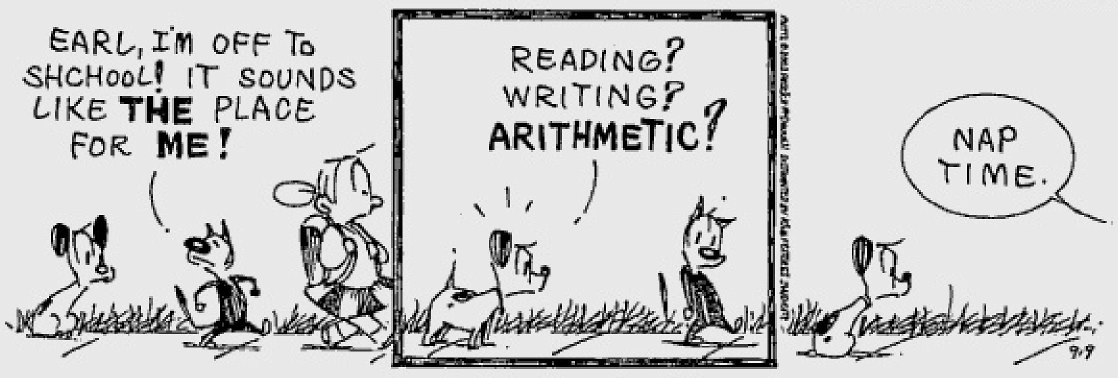
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DOC, MAY BUNTIS NA BABAE SA LABAS...
'BA E SIEMPRE. WALA NAMANG BUNTIS NA LALAKI 'DI BA?
O... VEGETARIAN KA PALA E. BA'T SA AKIN KA NAGPAPATINGIN? MAGPUNTA KA SA ALBULARYO.
DOC, INAAPOY NG LAGNAT ANG ANAK KO!
GAH!

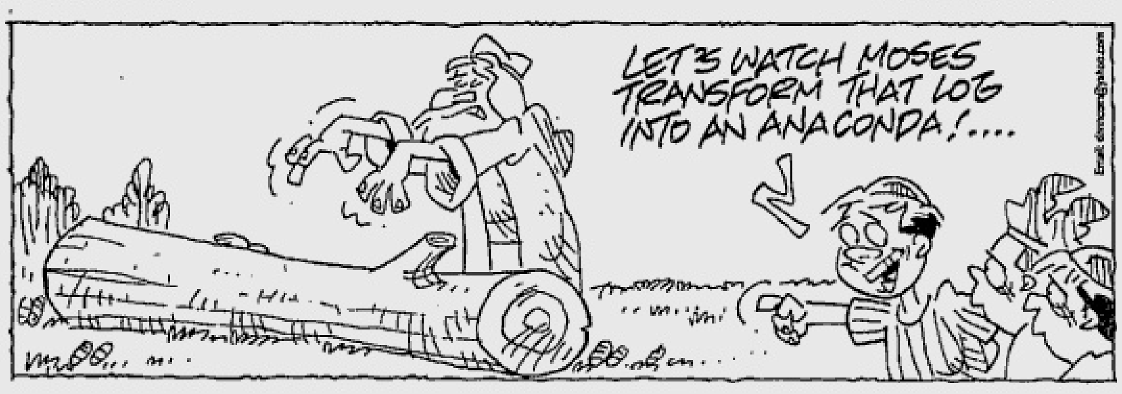
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL, I'M OFF TO SHCHOOL! IT SOUNDS LIKE THE PLACE FOR ME!
READING? WRITING? ARITHMETIC?
NAP TIME.
9-9

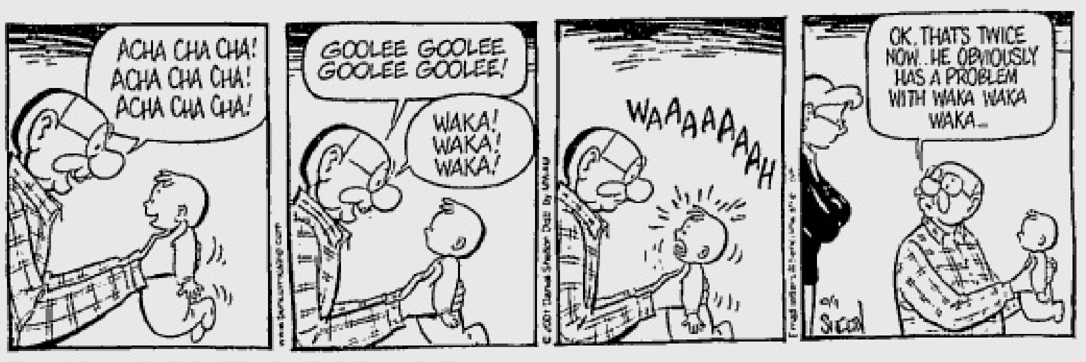
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LET'S WATCH MOSES TRANSFORM THAT LOG INTO AN ANACONDA!....

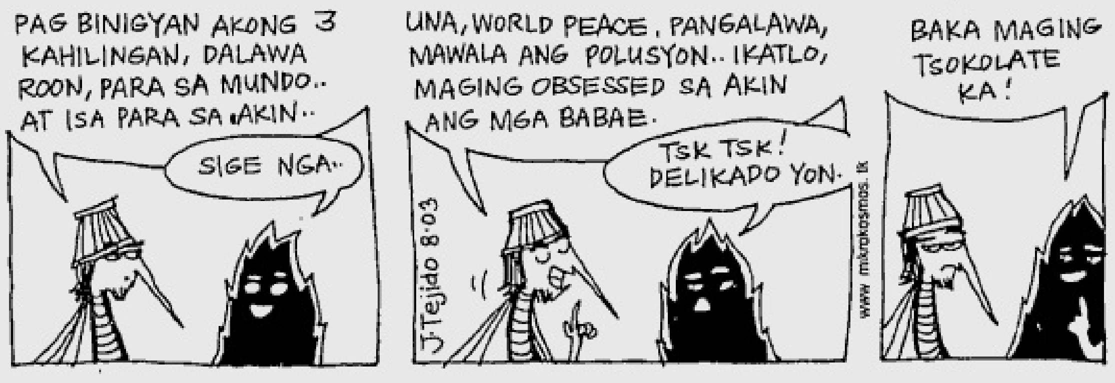
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


ACHA CHA CHA! ACHA CHA CHA! ACHA CHA CHA!
GOOLEE GOOLEE GOOLEE GOOLEE!
WAKA! WAKA! WAKA!
WAAAAAAAH
OK. THAT'S TWICE NOW.. HE OBVIOUSLY HAS A PROBLEM WITH WAKA WAKA WAKA...

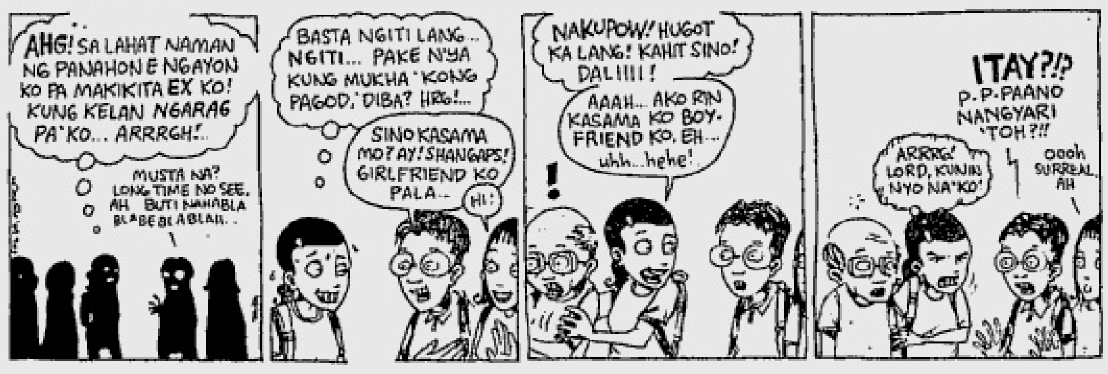
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAG BINIGYAN AKONG 3 KAHILINGAN, DALAWA ROON, PARA SA MUNDO.. AT ISA PARA SA AKIN..
SIGE NGA..
UNA, WORLD PEACE. PANGALAWA, MAWALA ANG POLUSYON.. IKATLO, MAGING OBSESSED SA AKIN ANG MGA BABAE.
TSK TSK! DELIKADO YON.
BAKA MAGING TSOKOLATE KA!
J.Tejido 8·03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

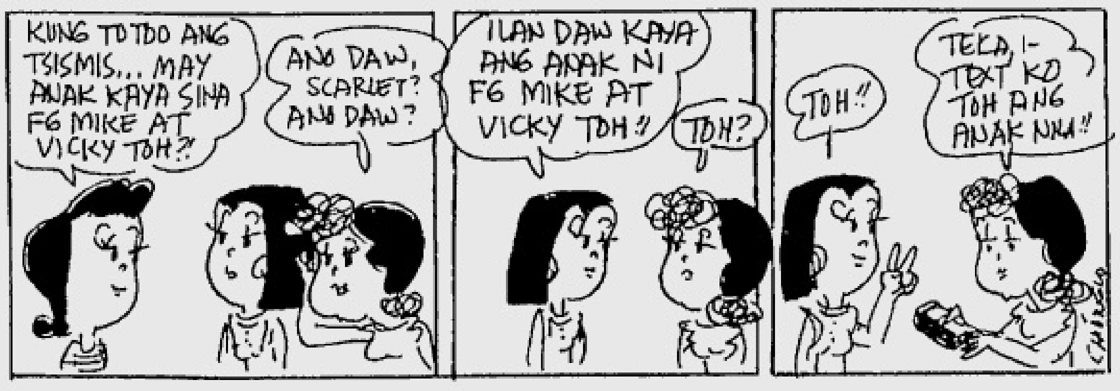
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AHG! SA LAHAT NAMAN NG PANAHON E NGAYON KO PA MAKIKITA EX KO! KUNG KELAN NGARAG PA'KO... ARRRGH!
MUSTA NA? LONG TIME NO SEE. AH BUTI NAMABLA BLABEBLABLAH..
BASTA NGITI LANG.. NGITI... PAKE N'YA KUNG MUKHA 'KONG PAGOD, DIBA? HRG!...
SINO KASAMA MO? AY! SHANGAPS! GIRLFRIEND KO PALA...
HI!
NAKUPOW! HUGOT KA LANG! KAHIT SINO! DALIIII!
AAAH... AKO RIN KASAMA KO BOY-FRIEND KO. EH... uhh...hehe!
!
ITAY?!?
P-P-PAANO NANGYARI 'TOH?!!
ARRRG! LORD, KUNIN NYO NA'KO!
Oooh SURREAL AH

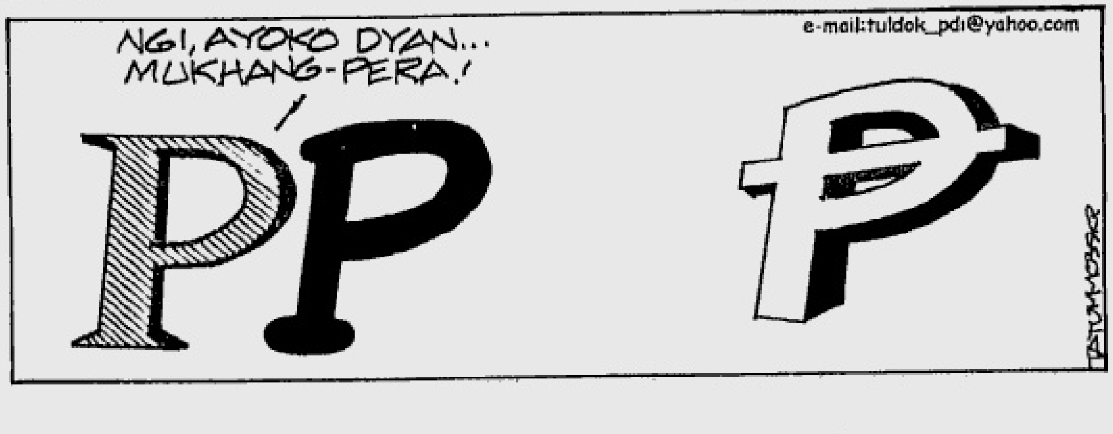
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG TOTOO ANG TSISMIS... MAY ANAK KAYA SINA F6 MIKE AT VICKY TOH?!
ANO DAW, SCARLET? ANO DAW?
ILAN DAW KAYA ANG ANAK NI F6 MIKE AT VICKY TOH?!
TOH?
TOH!!
TEKA, I-TEXT KO TOH ANG ANAK NYA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


e-mail:tuldok_pdi@yahoo.com
NGI, AYOKO DYAN... MUKHANG-PERA!

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 PINAY PIE	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	ArtFilm 1 PINAY PIE 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 LEGALLY BLONDE 2 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30 11:30	THX 1 S.W.A.T.
2 S.W.A.T.	2 S.W.A.T.	2 S.W.A.T. 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 S.W.A.T. 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:55, 11:15	2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 S.W.A.T. 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30	MARTIN NIEVERA Sep. 12 & 13, 9PM BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept 18 - 7PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SINBAD 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	3 PINAY PIE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	4 SPY KIDS 3D		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 ITALIAN JOB 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	4 SINBAD
	5 SINBAD		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 12:40, [illegible] 11:20	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
	6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2			
	7 PINAY PIE			

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4 GOLD (DTS ES)	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SWAT
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	SPY KIDS-3D
8	FINDING NEMO
9	PINAY PIE
10	WWW.XXX.COM

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2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

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3	WWW.XXX.COM

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3	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
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3	PINAY PIE
4	SWAT
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6	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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1
2
3

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3	
4	

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4	RESERVE
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7 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
8 (SDDS)	SWAT
9 (DOLBY)	SINBAD

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2	PINAY PIE
3	PINAY PIE
4 (SDDS)	SWAT
5	SINBAD
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8	NEW BLOOD
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2 (SDDS)	SWAT
3 (DTS)	PINAY PIE
4 (DOLBY)	SWAT
5	LEGALLY BLONDE 2

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2	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
3	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
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(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	RESERVE

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SWAT
2	PINAY PIE
3	WWW.XXX.COM
4	LEGALLY BLONDE-2

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

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2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4	PINAY PIE
5	WWW.XXX.COM

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5 (DTS)	SPY KIDS-3D
6	SINBAD
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1	MOTEL
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3 (DTS)	SWAT

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1	SINBAD
2 (DTS)	PINAY PIE
3 (DOLBY)	SWAT
4	LEGALLY BLONDE-2

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1	PINAY PIE
2 (DOLBY)	SWAT
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4	SINBAD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1	KEKA
2	PINAY PIE
3 (DOLBY)	FINDING NEMO
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	PINAY PIE
2	WWW.XXX.COM
3 (DOLBY)	A WALKING IN RENO
4	FINDING NEMO

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1 (DOLBY)	PINAY PIE
2 (DTS)	WWW.XXX.COM
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SWAT
2	BIGAY HILIG
3 (DTS)	WWW.XXX.COM
4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

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3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4	MOTEL
5	SINBAD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

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2	MOTEL
3	RESERVE

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1	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
2	PINAY PIE
3	FINDING NEMO

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	A VIEW FROM THE TOP
2	PINAY PIE
3 (DTS)	WWW.XXX.COM
4	NAKED WEAPON

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2	RESERVE

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2	PINAY PIE
3	RESERVE

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2	DARK WATER
3	SPY KIDS-3D
4	PINAY PIE

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2	PINAY PIE
3	LEGALLY BLONDE-2
4	SINBAD

Cine Nepo Mall
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1	PINAY PIE
2	SINBAD
3 (DOLBY)	SWAT
4	LEGALLY BLONDE-2

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2	WWW.XXX.COM
3	S.W.A.T.
4	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6	PINAY PIE
7	SPY KIDS 3-D
8	SINBAD

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 - 7161416

1	PINAY PIE
2	S.W.A.T.
3	S.W.A.T.
4	WWW.XXX.COM
5	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
6	NEW BLOOD
7	SPY KIDS 3-D
8	SINBAD
9	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
10	ITALIAN JOB

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350748

1	SPY KIDS 3-D
2	VISIBLE SECRET
3	LXG
4	S.W.A.T.
5	SINBAD
6	PINAY PIE
7	S.W.A.T.
8	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
9	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
10	ITALIAN JOB
11	FINDING NEMO
12	WWW.XXX.COM

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3	SINBAD
4	S.W.A.T.
5	SPY KIDS 3-D
6	S.W.A.T.
7	WWW.XXX.COM
8	LXG
9	PINAY PIE
10	NEW BLOOD
11	ITALIAN JOB
12	PINAY PIE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 (FOR SEAT RESERVATION, CALL 6330635)	S.W.A.T.
2	FINDING NEMO
3	LXG
4	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5	SINBAD
6	ITALIAN JOB
7	NEW BLOOD
8	SPY KIDS 3-D
9	S.W.A.T.
10	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
11	WWW.XXX.COM
12	PINAY PIE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	NEW BLOOD
2	SINBAD
3	WWW.XXX.COM
4	PINAY PIE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6	SPY KIDS 3-D
7	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
8	S.W.A.T.

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3	S.W.A.T.
4	SINBAD
5	ITALIAN JOB
6	FINDING NEMO
7	PINAY PIE
8	S.W.A.T.
9	SPY KIDS 3-D
10	WWW.XXX.COM

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	S.W.A.T.
2	FINDING NEMO
3	ITALIAN JOB
4	SINBAD
5	VIEW FROM THE TOP
6	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
7	PINAY PIE
8	S.W.A.T.

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	LXG
2	RESERVED
3	PINAY PIE
4	FINDING NEMO
5	SINBAD
6	ITALIAN JOB
7	RESERVED
8	NAKED WEAPON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	S.W.A.T.
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4	WWW.XXX.COM
5	SINBAD
6	PINAY PIE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	SINBAD
2	PINAY PIE
3	S.W.A.T.
4	LEGALLY BLONDE 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	S.W.A.T.
2	WWW.XXX.COM
3	PINAY PIE
4	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	FINDING NEMO
3	PINAY PIE
4	SINBAD
5	PINAY PIE
6	ITALIAN JOB

SM BICUTAN
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1	S.W.A.T.
2	PINAY PIE
3	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4	SINBAD

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2684

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	WWW.XXX.COM
3	PINAY PIE
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED

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633-6976

1	LEGALLY BLONDE 2 11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:05/3:00/5:05/7:00/9:00/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END
2	S.W.A.T. 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

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1	S.W.A.T (THX)	12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
2	THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS	10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
4	S.W.A.T.	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5	PINAY PIE	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
6	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
7	ITALIAN JOB	12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:40, 9:00
8	LEGALLY BLONDE 2	10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
9	SPY KIDS 3D	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
10	WWW.XXX.COM	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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Ermita 536-717809 TO 13

1	S.W.A.T	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2	Pirates of the Carribean	10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40, 12:00
3	WWW.XXX.COM	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4	SINBAD	10:15, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 6:50, 7:45, 9:40
5	SPY KIDS 3D	10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
6	PINAY PIE	10:20, 12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:40
7	LEGALLY BLONDE - 2	10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40

Metro East Marcos hway 682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	S.W.A.T.
3	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
5	SPY KIDS 3D
6	PINAY PIE
7	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
8	WWW.XXX.COM

Novaliches 935-3229/31

1	SINBAD--LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
2	ITALIAN JOB
3	WWW.XXX.COM
4	S.W.A.T.
5	SPY KIDS 3D
6	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
8	PINAY PIE

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2	PINAY PIE
3	S.W.A.T.
4	LEGALLY BLONDE 2

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1	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2	PINAY PIE
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	WWW.XXX.COM
5	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
6	S.W.A.T.

Imus (046) 471-8188 (046) 875-5858

1	S.W.A.T
2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
4	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5	PINAY PIE
6	WWW.XXX.COM

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049) 837-09-07

1	PINAY PIE
2	S.W.A.T.
3	SINBAD-LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
4	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Bacolod (034) 441-0458-59

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	ALEX AND EMMA
3	PINAY PIE
4	FINDING NEMO
5	WAKING UP IN RENO
6	NENA INOSENTE

Iloilo (033) 336-8070/78

1	ITALIAN JOB
2	VIEW FROM THE TOP
3	PINAY PIE
4	SINBAD--LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS
5	WAKING UP IN RENO
6	NAKED WEAPON

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

A hunger for . . .

From page A26

India

5. "The Son," by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, Belgium
6. "Riles," by Ditsi Carolino, Philippines
7. "Uzak," by Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Turkey
8. "City of God," by Fernando Meirelles, Brazil
9. "Whale Rider," by Niki Caro, New Zealand
10. "Divine Intervention," by Elia Suleiman, Palestine

Our favorites are particularly. those that seem effortless. We relish art that is artless.

Though most of these films depict the wretchedness of the human condition, we came out of the theater smiling, from how their stories are told. Such is the redemptive power of art.

We would have loved to see Moussa Sene Absa's "Madame Brouette," just to see what they were doing in Senegal, but the screening schedule didn't allow us. So we were left in the dark.

Two titles that intrigued us were India's "Tale of a Naughty Girl" and Vietnam's "House of Guavas." Then, again, the schedule problem cropped up, so we wouldn't know if we should expand our ranking to the Top 12.

(If you read such titles on the theater marquee, wouldn't you rush to the ticket booth, too?)

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	WWW XXX COM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PINAY PIE
B	SEX DRIVE
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-2	LXG
CINEMA-3	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWAT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-6	BIGAY HILIG
CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LEGALLY BLONDE 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SWAT
CINEMA-12	SINBAD
CINEMA-14	WWW XXX COM
CINEMA-15	PINAY PIE

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	PINAY PIE
CINEMA-1	WWW XXX COM
CINEMA-2	NAKED WEAPON
CINEMA-4	VIEW FROM THE TOP

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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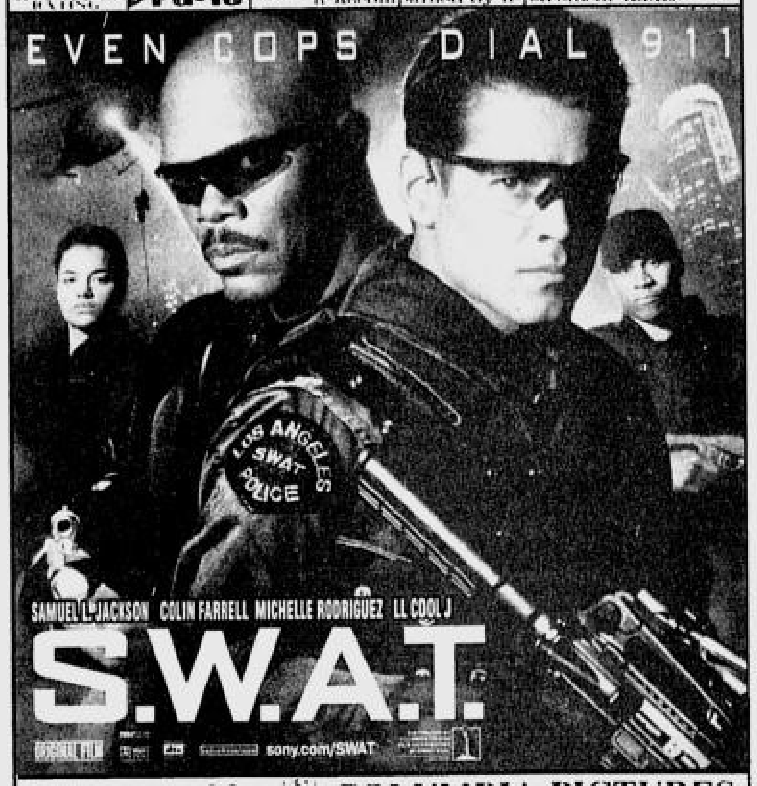
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.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P13

CINEMA 2
LEGALLY BLONDE 2
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
GP

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PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN PG 13 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	S.W.A.T. PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SINBAD GP 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30
SPY KIDS 3D GP 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00 7:50, 9:40	PINAY PIE PG13 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	LEGALLY BLONDE 2 GP 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10

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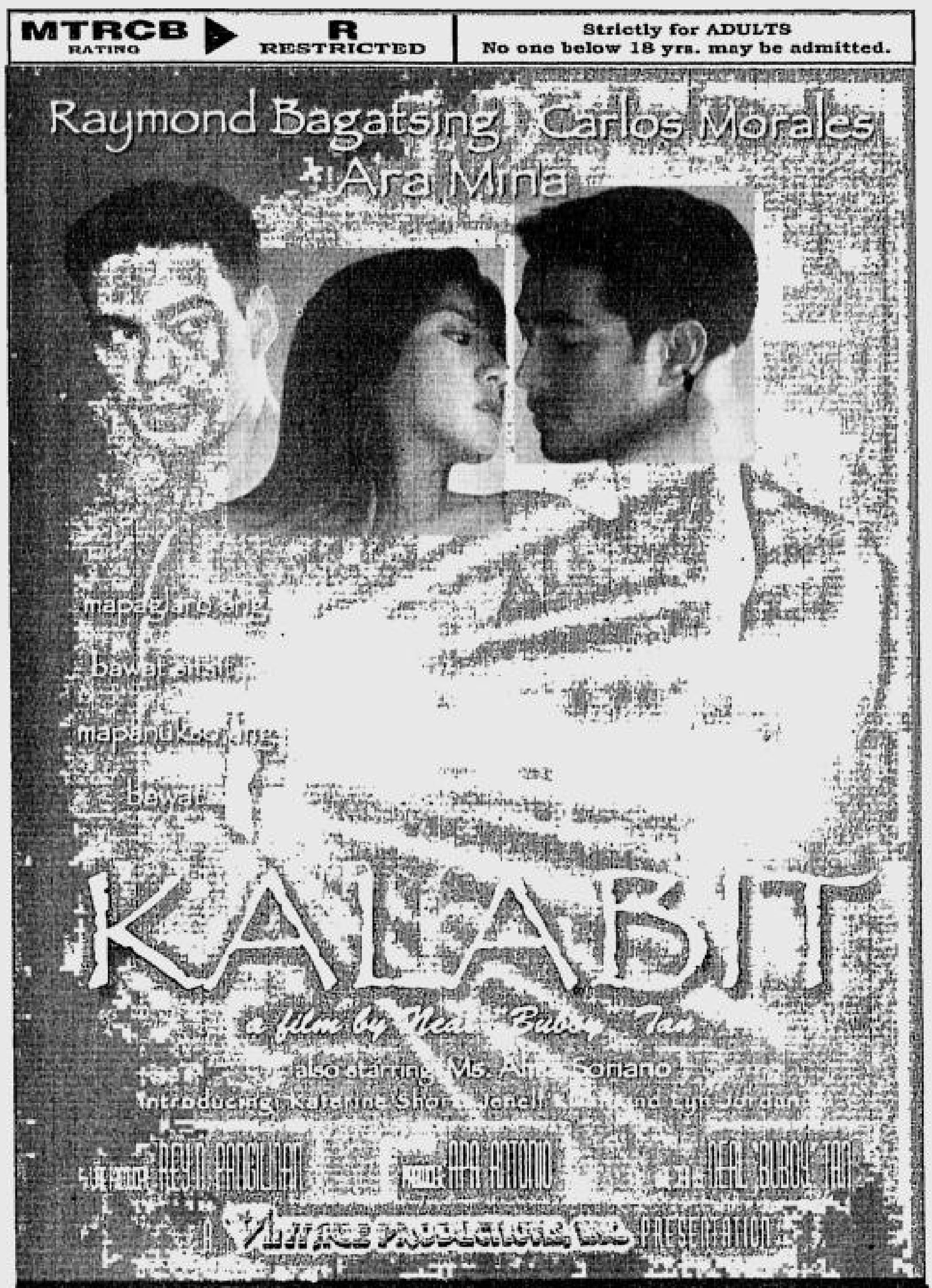
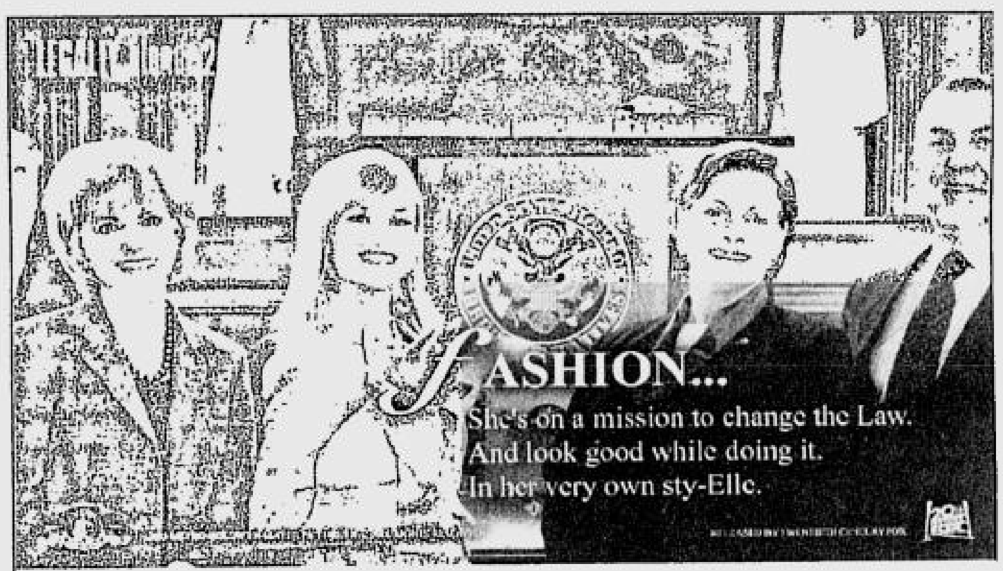

Raymond Bagatsing Carlos Morales
Ara Mina
bawal
mapanukso
bayad
KALABIT
a film by Neal Buboy Tan
also starring Ms. Amy Soriano
introducing Katerine Shor...
NEAL BUBOY TAN
PRESENTATION

OPENS TOMORROW !


Legally Blonde 2
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She's on a mission to change the Law.
And look good while doing it.
In her very own sty-Elle.

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage

OPENS TOMORROW !
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ARMY
JEFFREY QUIZON VHONG NAVARRO PACO CONTI NANCY CASTIGLIONE
and EDDIE GARCIA
Directed by DANILO P. CABREIRA
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Havoline Xpress Lube
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AYALA CINEMAS
VIVA
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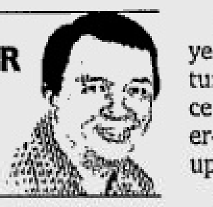
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS SEP. 10 AT ArtFilm
Based on the novel "Sacre et Profane" by Marcelle Bernstein
LE PACTE DU SILENCE
(The Pact Of Silence)
What if the truth behind the secret is a lie?
Gérard Depardieu & Elodie Bouchez
Golden Globe winner Gérard Depardieu stars as a Jesuit priest, Dr. Joachim Ferrer. Harboring a secret from his violent past and having found solace in the church, he soon finds himself caught in a web of intrigue when a young Carmelite nun, Sarah, is rushed to his hospital. Suffering from inexplicable pain and delusions, Joachim recognizes in Sarah the familiar symptoms of repression and denial. What no one knows is the terrifying secret she carries inside her.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
NOKIA

Gérard Depardieu
Elodie Bouchez
Le Pacte du Silence

Back with vengeance

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

NOT too long ago, animated film features were shunned by both producers and viewers, who felt that cartoon movies had outstayed their welcome. Then came blockbuster movies like "The Lion King," "Toy Story" and "Shrek," and animated features are now back with a vengeance as viewers' hot favorites.

In fact, the new animated feature, "Finding Nemo," has emerged as the biggest hit of Film Year 2003, and has even dislodged "The Lion King" as the most profitable animated movie ever made.

From the has-been that it was years ago, the animated feature is now the life of the film party. What accounts fôr its impressively successful comeback?

First, animation productions are no longer being made primarily for a kiddie audience. Recent productions like "Shrek" are with-it and sassy, and have clearly been made with the general family audience in mind.

And "Finding Nemo" has a very strong father character, whose desperate search for his lost son is the plot engine that drives the entire production to its powerfully empathetic finale.

Thus, as young viewers empathize with Nemo, parents in the audience are sharing in his dad's fears and concern, so both audience sectors are entertainingly served.

A second innovation is a change in story approach. Old cartoons used to be based on fairy tales, but today's plots for animated productions are much more contemporary and original.

This makes them more accessible to today's more with-it viewers, hence the full houses that such productions have been enjoying.

Third factor: It used to take years and years for a cartoon feature to be drawn and shot, but recent advances in digital, computer-based animation have speeded up the process, and cut costs.

So, movie studios like Disney and Dreamworks can bankroll more animated features, thus enabling the film format to be more visible on movie screens, and thus create the bandwagon effect needed to turn a niche film format into a big, mainstream hit and market leader.

Fourth, technological and artistic innovations have made cartoons' storytelling techniques much more realistic and versatile than they used to be. This adds to their appeal to more discriminating and demanding adult viewers, not to mention teen patrons, who can be even more critical of shoddy or old-fashioned film work than their parents.

Pfeiffer's new avocation

Movie fans haven't been seeing much of **Michelle Pfeiffer** on the big screen these past few film seasons—but they have been hearing her voice. Much to her surprise, Pfeiffer has found a new part-time avocation as voice actor for animated features, and she's enjoying the experience.

It all started with "The Prince of Egypt," and she had such a good, challenging time as a dubber there that she was eager to repeat the experience.

What did she find challenging about voice acting? "It takes a lot of specificity. You can go into the recording studio and just play with your role, but you discover soon enough that you have to be much more focused. The truth is, these are very few takes you get that are really good enough.

"The difficult thing is, if you keep thinking about how your voice sounds, you're doing some terrible acting, because you're outside your body watching yourself, you're not in the moment. You have to forget all that and just feel what your character is feeling."

Pfeiffer's second chance came when she was tapped to voice the role of Edris, Goddess of Chaos, in the new animated feature, "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas."

In the film, Edris steals the Book of Peace, and Sinbad and his friends have to travel the seven seas to get it back. On that long journey, they battle various monsters, including a giant scorpion, a huge serpent, and a roc, a 40-foot-tall bird whose body is all ice.

But Edris remains their biggest nemesis, so Pfeiffer had to summon up all of the viciousness she was capable of to do justice to the role.

Since she had done voice work before, she found that she could forget about the technical considerations, and just have fun with the part. To get in the mood to play her "chaotic" character, all she had to do was drive to work through Los Angeles' maddening traffic—and she had all the inner rage she needed to make Edris one really mean bitch goddess!

Ms D: I can't...

•From page A26

"I'm glad I had my kids when I was young," she said. "We have no generation gap at all. Oyo is very Bonnevie when he's in love. All mine to give! Danica is the one who's more cautious. I guess it's because she has seen me go through pain so she has learned from my mistakes somehow."

She never meddles in her kids' love affairs. All she does is give them sound advice but it's up to them what route their hearts will take.

"Whoever they choose is fine by me," said Ms D. "That's why I can't say who I like more, Anne Curtis (Oyo's ex) or Alessandra de Rossi (Oyo's current). Only he knows for sure who makes him happy and he seems happy now." Although Dina could be happier, she's more than satisfied about the way things are between her and the father of her kids, Vic Sotto. "We would both tease each other about this or that girl and guy linked to him and to me. It's like a running joke already."

US doc woos PJ

JESSICA Rodriguez is en route to the US with David Bunevacz and their three-month-old daughter, Breanna.

"I'm so excited because it's the first time my in-laws and my dad will see Breanna," Jessica said. "It will be a wonderful reunion."

After being bedridden during her delicate pregnancy, Jessica is raring to be back in the swing of things again. "I felt like an invalid while I was pregnant. It's good to be back in action."

I chided her, "What if your US holiday with David will turn out to be another honeymoon and you end up pregnant again?"

She guffawed. "Heaven forbid! I'm not ready yet. I want to enjoy Breanna first."

In L.A., Jessica will be meeting up with her prized ward, Patricia Javier, who's fresh from two shows with Rico J. Jessica revealed to me that Pat has an ardent American-Irish suitor whom she met during her show with Janno Gibbs and Jaya in the United States.

"The guy's a 29-year-old doctor who's dead set on pursuing Patricia," Jessica said. "He will visit Pat in Manila in December. According to Pat, the guy could pass for a model."

What about Patricia's biggest love, Marc Nelson?

"They are not together anymore," said Jessica. "But since they have remained close, people think they're still on. I just don't know how Marc will take the news about Pat's new suitor. *Malalim at ibang klase kasi ang pinagsamahan nila*, so it's only natural that they still get affected when new people come into each other's love life."

TJ and Joyce

TJ Manotoc is astonished about reports claiming that Joyce Jimenez is already his girlfriend.

"Who would not fall for Joyce," he said, "but both of us don't want to pre-empt anything. It all started when she was a guest co-host on 'Unang Hirit' for two weeks and my co-hosts were teasing me on the air. That's how strong the impact of our morning show is. I'm amazed."

He doesn't deny, though, that he and Joyce text each other and he took her out to his brother's nacho place because she happens to love nachos. TJ is so mild-mannered and is the type who would never take advantage of the situation.

"I don't court girls the typical way, as in doing everything to please her," he said. "I want to get to know her well first without any romantic angle. I'd rather let things develop."

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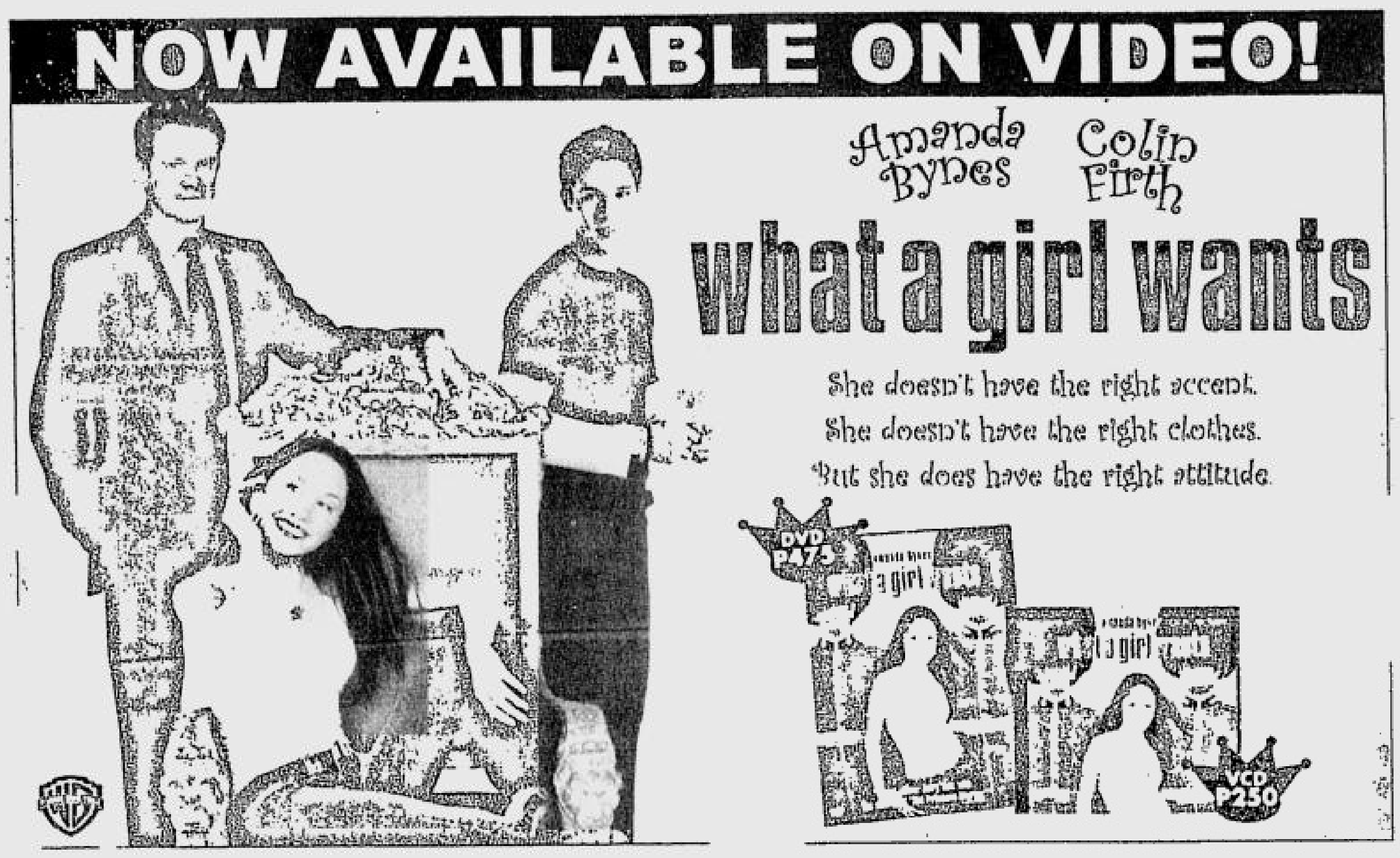
For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

DID YOU KNOW...

Former actress **Daisy Romualdez** and her daughter **Danita Paner** were seen malling at Glorietta 4 in Makati last Saturday afternoon. Danita is in the Chavit Singson bio-pic produced by Golden Lion Films and Velcro Films and directed by Carlo J. Caparas.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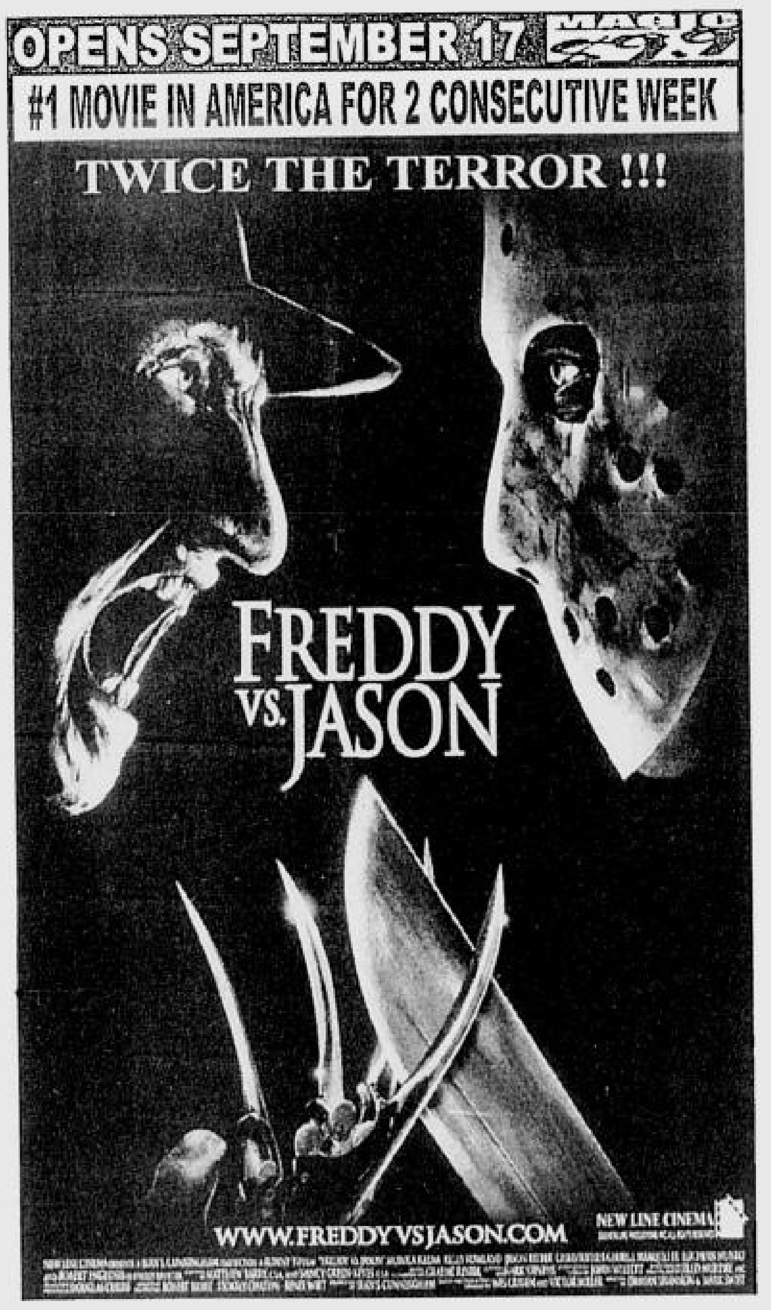
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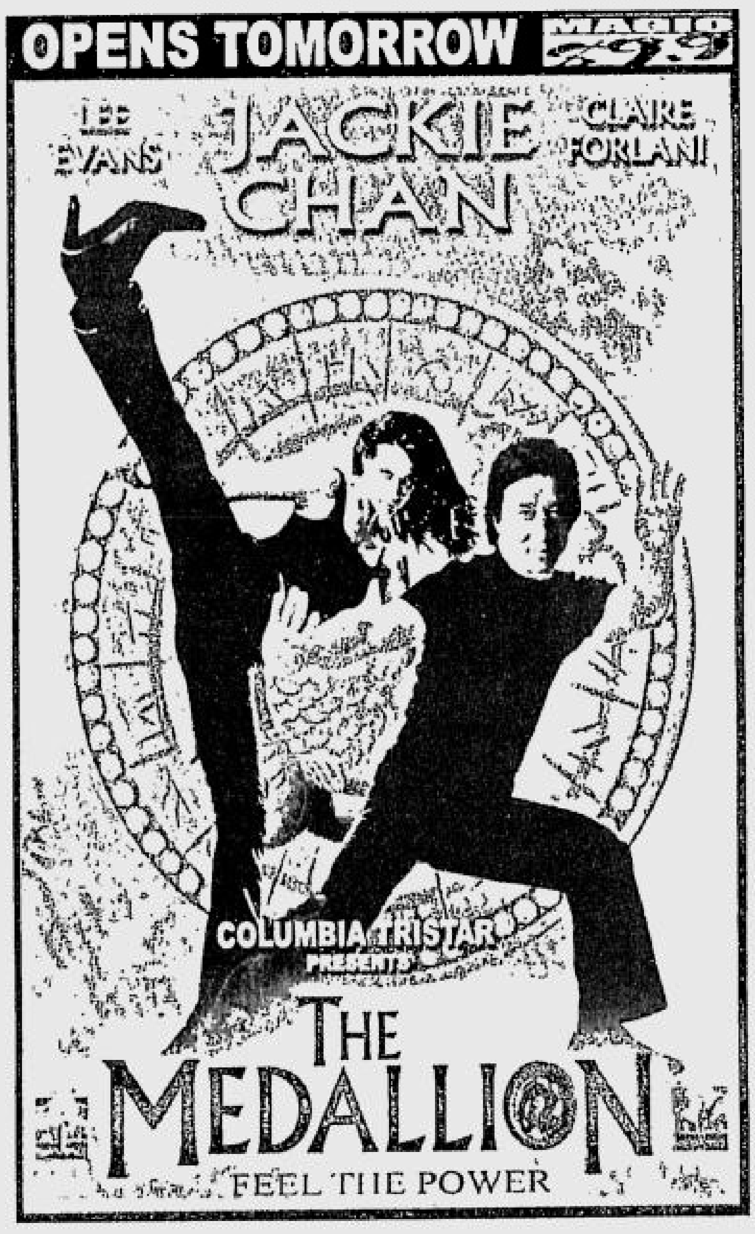
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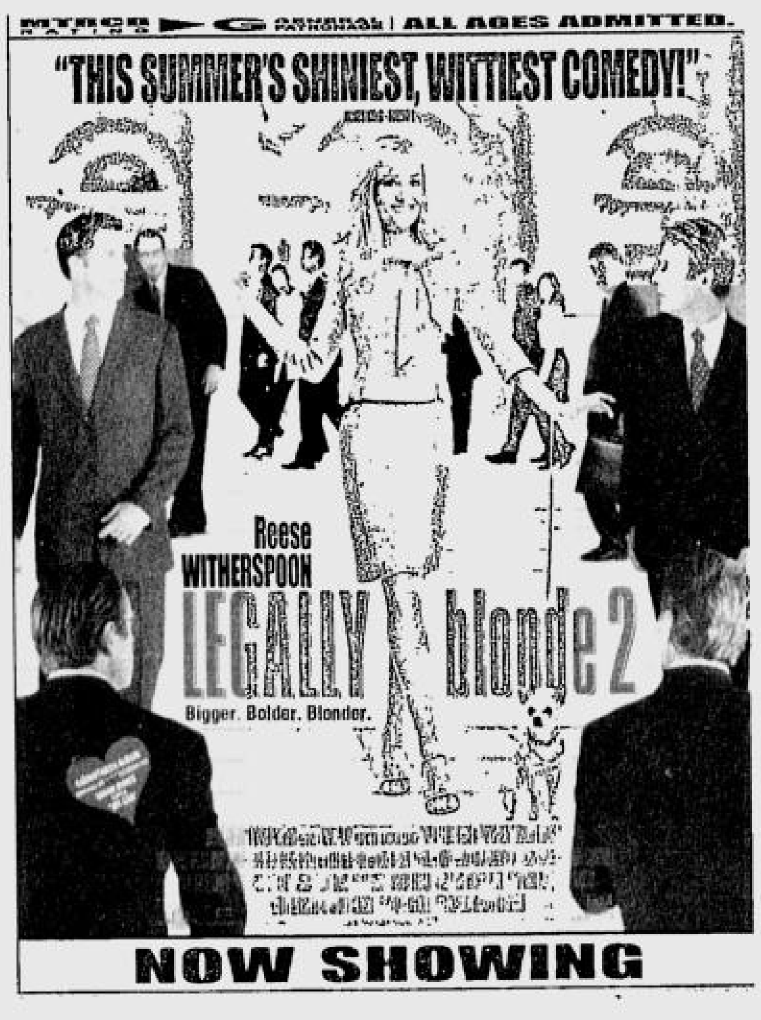
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Editor Louie C. Camino

Sharon: I'd rather get pregnant than do concert tour

By Marinel R. Cruz

FRIENDS, LOVERS. Sharon and Aga together for the very first time in a movie.

RUDY ESPERAS

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta refused to commit to any of the three producers, who had been wanting to produce a US concert tour for her since last year, because her doctors advised her not to do anything strenuous so she could get pregnant again.

Sharon said she and her husband, Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, even considered a procedure called invitro fertilization (meaning outside the body or, literally, in a test tube), "but we had Frankie even before we could carry out the plan, so there was no need anymore."

Sharon, however, said she would go invitro fertilization, "if I'm desperate."

"There's a lot of medical procedures available to couples now," she pointed out. "It would be such a waste if no one would avail themselves of any of it."

In invitro fertilization, a human embryo is created by special medical clinics by mixing the man's sperm and the woman's eggs in test tubes. The viable zygotes or fertilized eggs are put back in the woman, if she is capable of completing a pregnancy, or in surrogate mothers, where they develop into perfectly normal babies in the usual way.

Sharon had just arrived Sunday from a five-week vacation in the United States and France with her husband and their 6-year-old daughter Frankie.

While part of the trip was to help Sharon's eldest daughter, actress/model/VJ KC Concepcion, settle down to her new home in Paris where she is going to college as a freshman, the couple were hoping to have a new baby boy.

"But I've just gotten my period," Sharon said yesterday, over lunch to promote "Kung Ako Na Lang Sana," her very first movie with Aga Muhlach. "I was so disappointed that I cried."

The megastar was 37 when she became pregnant with Frankie, and only after several incidents of miscarriage.

"I miss performing, but its such a great commitment," she explained. "I will just continue doing my weekly show on ABS-CBN and promote my movies. I will not commit to anything that my doctors consider too strenuous."

Sharon, her husband and children spent the first week of their vacation in Los Angeles, where they visited Disneyland, Lego Land and Universal Studios. The senator celebrated his birthday last Aug. 24 with a dinner with his wife in Paris, Sharon said.

"The trip had been really romantic and relaxing even though Kiko had to go home twice to attend Senate sessions," she added. "We could see the Eiffel Tower from our hotel room window."

She declined to answer questions about 18-year-old KC, her daughter with former actor Gabby Concepcion, "because KC requested me not to talk about her anymore."

"She is pretty much settled there," Sharon said. "She'll come home during breaks."

She said she was supposed to air a video of the family's trip on her musical variety show "Sharon" on ABS-CBN last Sunday, but decided to give in to her daughter's request not to show it any more.

"KC would be pretty much on her own," the mother said. "She's very excited. She made sure to finish all her work here before leaving. I miss her whenever I see her billboards."

Because she does not want to stress herself out, Sharon said throwing her hat into the political arena is now the last thing on her mind.

"Politics in the Philippines is in such a sorry state," she said. "In fact, if I didn't love my country and my work here so much I would've left a long time ago."

She was reacting to reports that she is running for Pasay mayor in 2004. Her late father, Pablo Cuneta, was mayor of Pasay for 41 years until he retired in 1998.

"I'll do better as an ordinary citizen," she said. "I like making movies, this is what I'm made to do."

"Kung Ako Na Lang Sana," directed by Jose Javier Reyes for Star Cinema, will be shown on Sept. 24. Sharon described Aga as "someone I've always admired as an actor."

"Kung Ako Na Lang Sana" is about close friends Emmy (Sharon) and Vince (Aga) who end up as lovers. It also stars Dominic Ochoa, Jennifer Sevilla, Christine Bersola, Mickey Ferriols and Shintaro Valdez.

In December, Sharon will be busy again promoting her 2003 Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Crying Ladies." Soon, she will be producing a movie for Comedy King Dolphy, with Unitel's Tony Gloria, who also produced Laurice Guillen's "American Adobo."

A hunger for world cinema

By Constantino C. Tejero

"WHALE RIDER," by Niki Caro, New Zealand

THE FILIPINO cineastes' hunger for world-class films had never been more apparent as during the recently concluded 5th Cinemanila International Film Festival.

We saw people queuing up like driven cattle to watch some film flown in from the farthest reaches of the earth. (What were they thinking? What were they expecting? What were they hoping to see? What was in their mind?)

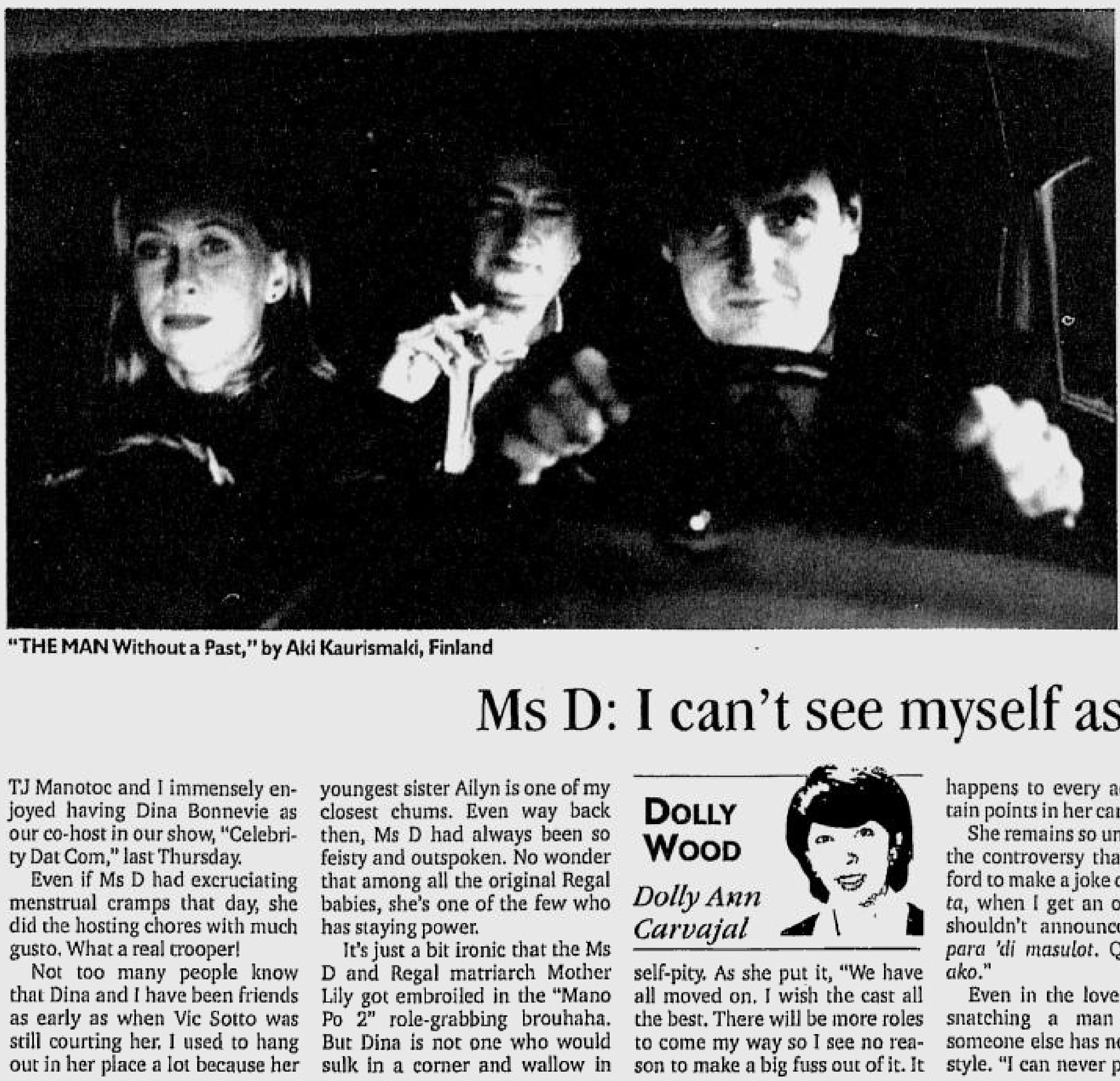
As with its previous editions, this year's Cinemanila whelmed Filipino moviegoers with a wealth of world-class films that otherwise wouldn't see the light in this corner of the planet. The number of entries (over 80 films from 30 countries), with conflicting schedules and each with an average three screenings in three weeks, could drive the cineaste to near-catatonia.

In such mind-boggling situation, we often just follow our instinct and sniff for unknown masterpieces. These are small, or quiet, finely crafted films that are almost always powerful in their baring of the human heart or exposing of the human condition.

Because of the impenetrable screening schedules, often we have to choose between these films and the flashier works of well-known filmmakers such as Kim Ki-Duk ("Address Unknown" is intense but "The Isle" is overpowering); François Ozon ("Under the Sand" is our favorite); Wong Kar-Wai ("Chungking Express" is the most exhilarating, "Happy Together" the most accomplished, "In the Mood for Love" the loveliest); Arturo Ripstein ("Divine" is spectacular cinema, one of the most baroque we've seen in this filmfest).

We find time to watch these films, of course, including the more popular ones such as "Lagaan," "Peony Pavilion," "Central Station," "Cidade de Deus," "Dogville," "Chunhyang," "Y Tu Mamá También," "Jan Dara."

But it is with the unknown yet interesting ones that we make the extra effort to catch. It is curiosity about remote national cinemas, or remote cultures for that matter, that often plunges us into serendipity.



"THE MAN Without a Past," by Aki Kaurismaki, Finland

We don't know why, but our instinct tells us that the remoter the culture, the more powerful the film. And most of the time it turns out right.

And so we discovered these gems: the Inuit film "Atanarjuat the Fast Runner" (an all-time favorite of ours, Cinemanila's Best Picture last year, and considered by critic Graham Fuller one of the greatest films ever made); the Iranian "Birth of a Butterfly," "Unfinished Song" and "Bashu, the Little Stranger"; the Venezuelan "Una Casa con Vista al Mar"; the Chilean "Taxi para Tres"; the Indonesian "Whispering Sands" and "Leaf on a Pillow" (the 1st Cinemanila's Best Picture); the Danish "Flickering Lights"; the Austrian "Dog Days" (quite disturbing); the Sri Lankan "This is My Moon" (otherworldly); the Turkish "Clouds of May" (one of our favorites in the five editions of this filmfest).

It happened again this year. Serendipity, unlike lightning, can strike twice, thrice, and so on.

Of the new entries, we found many from Third World countries just as outstanding as those from the sophisticated European cinema. Interesting films have their power diminished by a knowing technique and an artsy attitude.

Takeshi Kitano's "Dolls" sacrifices its poignancy to its Bunraku inspiration, neat cinematography and Yohji Yamamoto costumes. Lars von Trier's "Dogville" prettifies its biblical barbarity with a brooding intimate lighting and minimalist stage props à la Paul Schrader's "Mishima." Stanley Kwan's "Lan Yu and I," a gay romance that can be transposed to the heterosexual world, is a decline from his more resonant "Hold You Tight."

Of the newer entries in this year's Cinemanila, we would rank our Top 10 as follows:

1. "The Man Without a Past," by Aki Kaurismäki, Finland
2. "Waiting for Happiness," by Abderrhamne Sissako, Mauritania
3. "Angel on the Right," by Djamshed Usmonov, Tajikistan
4. "Mr. and Mrs. Iyer," by Aparna Sen,

A HUNGER/ A24

Ms D: I can't see myself as a mistress

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

TJ Manotoc and I immensely enjoyed having Dina Bonnevie as our co-host in our show, "Celebrity Dat Com," last Thursday.

Even if Ms D had excruciating menstrual cramps that day, she did the hosting chores with much gusto. What a real trooper!

Not too many people know that Dina and I have been friends as early as when Vic Sotto was still courting her. I used to hang out in her place a lot because her youngest sister Ailyn is one of my closest chums. Even way back then, Ms D had always been so feisty and outspoken. No wonder that among all the original Regal babies, she's one of the few who has staying power.

It's just a bit ironic that the Ms D and Regal matriarch Mother Lily got embroiled in the "Mano Po 2" role-grabbing brouhaha. But Dina is not one who would sulk in a corner and wallow in self-pity. As she put it, "We have all moved on. I wish the cast all the best. There will be more roles to come my way so I see no reason to make a big fuss out of it. It happens to every actress at certain points in her career."

She remains so unperturbed by the controversy that she can afford to make a joke out of it. "*Basta*, when I get an offer, maybe I shouldn't announce it at once *para 'di masulot*. Quiet *na lang ako*."

Even in the love department, snatching a man away from someone else has never been her style. "I can never picture myself as a mistress," she said. "I believe there's someone really intended for each of us. I've been praying to find the final ONE already. I don't want just a lover, I want a permanent companion. I've learned that if you really obey God without making compromises He will give you the right one. I used to be quite stubborn and just followed my heart. Now I'd rather wait for God's plan to unfold in my life."

She admits being a veritable "geisha" when she falls for someone. "I cook, massage, give him a facial, manicure, pedicure," she said. "Name it, I'll do it all for love!"

Even if her Mr. Right hasn't come yet, Ms D is not getting impatient at all. With two teenage kids, Danica and Oyo Boy, whom she continues to "grow up" with, how can she be bored?

MS D/ A25

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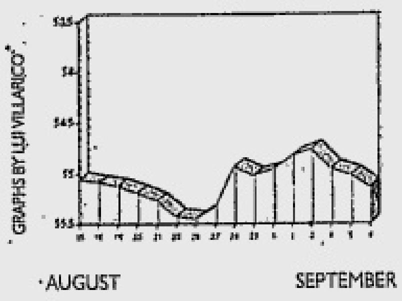

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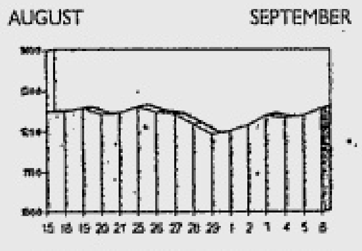
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up over 1.49%



(See stock market report on Page B6)

STOCKS ended more than one-percent higher yesterday as investors snapped up PLDT and other leading large caps seen offering value at current trading levels, traders said.

An absence of negative news over the weekend following swirling rumors of plots to destabilize the government also helped shore up confidence.

"It's more of a relief rally. We are just riding on the momentum begun last week and for now just putting aside all the negative news," said Rommel Macapagal, chair of Westlink Global Securities.

The main index closed up 18.45 points, or 1.49 percent, at 1,259.03 points. In the year to date the index is up 23.6 percent. Turnover improved to a moderate P528.6 million from P349.7 million on Friday.

Traders cautioned that an absence of broad-based buying support and weakness on Wall Street would temper gains going forward.

"A sustained rally has to be accompanied by positive developments across the board. I don't see a correction but there is likely to be a slowdown in the gains going forward," said Jose Vistan, senior analyst at AB Capital Securities.

PLDT, the country's largest telecom firm, rose 4.2 percent to P620, its highest closing mark since Aug. 8, 2001. The stock has been on a recovery path since late last year on strong earnings and mobile subscriber growth, coupled with the firm's successful debt refinancing.

"The market talk is that the strong subscriber growth in the first half has been sustained in the second," Vistan said. *Reuters*

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. yesterday signed a $20-million deal to buy a 100-hectare industrial complex from Thai developer Amata in Rayong City.

The deal was signed by SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco and Amata City Co. Ltd. chair Chavalit Yodmani and was witnessed by visiting Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

SMC said its operations in Thailand would begin in 2005 and involve manufacturing of various products.

It said Thailand was considered a "strategic investment site" due to its huge beer market and generous competitive and tax incentives and its proximity to emerging markets Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

The company informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that the acquisition of the property was "part of SMC's move to step up presence in the Asia-Pacific region," noting that Thailand was one of the seven countries earlier identified as an ideal expansion site.

"SMC's expansion in Thailand involves manufacturing of SMC's beverage products such as packaged water, carbonated soft drinks, carbo-natural drinks, juice, tea and energy drinks, processed food, snacks and feed mill operations," the company said.

The food and beverage giant has earmarked $500 million for its planned investments and acquisitions in the Asia-Pacific. Apart from Thailand, other countries targeted for further expansion are Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Malaysia.

"SMC sees a wealth of opportunity in the Asia-Pacific. Supported by a strong domestic business, the Philippines' largest beverage, food and packaging company is ready for the next stage of growth. We want to grow from being the nation's premier consumer products corporation to a leading Asian enterprise," Cojuangco earlier said in his report to stockholders.

Complementary to SMC's bid to tap various markets in the region is its bid to become an Asian distribution and logistics powerhouse.

Earlier, SMC also announced that it was in talks to acquire the China-based beer breweries of Malaysian conglomerate Lion group, which has 11 joint-venture brewery plants in Zheijiang, Jiangsu, Hunan, Hubei and Shandong in China, with a total production volume of 1.6 million

SMC/B2

Gov't sells ₱6.7B worth of 7-year promissory notes

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury yesterday sold P6.7 billion worth of 7-year promissory notes to a market clamoring for debt instruments that banks can use to reduce their non-performing loans and improve their tax flexibility.

The government also benefited from the sale of the promissory notes as it brought down the 7-year coupon rate to 10.25 percent from the prevailing secondary market rate of 10.4 percent.

Offers for the debt paper reached P9.7 billion or more than three times oversubscribed against the P3 billion on auction, indicating sufficient appetite for the promissory notes at a time when banks continued to drive local interest rates higher due to lingering political uncertainties.

The Treasury would sell at least P3 billion worth of 5-year promissory notes today.

Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa said banks were expected to continue flocking to the debt paper in lieu of the regular government securities.

Sold to a maximum of 19 lenders, the buyers of the promissory notes are exempt from the 20-percent withholding tax and need to pay only income tax. Regular government securities are subject to a withholding tax.

Unlike regular bonds that are usually booked as investments, promissory notes could be treated as loans and be used to reduce a bank's NPL ratio.

The proceeds of the debt notes would replace some of the auctions the Treasury had rejected in the last five weeks.

The Treasury said it has the authority from Malacañang and the central bank's Monetary Board to issue as much as P100 billion worth of promissory notes.

This week's auction of promissory notes was the third for the year. The Treasury sold a similar debt paper in April worth P5.75 billion and again in May worth P8.25 billion.

Fedex readies transfer to Clark

By Abigail L. Ho

COURIER services provider Federal Express is here to stay, contrary to reports that it will move its regional hub to China from the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales, a transportation official said yesterday.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza admitted in an interview at the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation high-level meeting on maritime security cooperation that Fedex would indeed be removing its hub from Subic, but the transfer would be to Clark in Pampanga and not to China.

"I was talking with the management of Fedex, particularly Mr. (Alberto) Lina. He said Fedex would even be expanding its operations here. Their contract with Subic will expire by 2007, but they have already coordinated with Clark for the expansion of their operations," he told reporters yesterday.

Lina is chair of Airfreight 2100 Inc., the sole licensee of Fedex in the Philippines.

FEDEX/B2

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McDonald's Restaurant visible on Mars

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THERE is a great deal of controversy as to whether the next election should be presidential or parliamentary. There is strong support for both but the two sides are polls apart. My friend in the Comelec tells me there will be so many wannabe candidates in the next election that the voting slips will be three feet long. Even if computers are used, there will still be a manual check in case of error and the result will take six years to verify.

A man went to a psychiatrist and said, "I have a split personality." "Nurse," yelled the doctor, "bring in another chair." In his clinic, schizophrenics pay double but multiple personalities get a group discount.

A funeral procession was on its way to the cemetery when the hearse hit a bump. The coffin fell out on to the road and proceeded to roll down a steep hill. It went faster and faster until it hit the sidewalk, flew up in the air and smashed through the window of a pharmacy, stopping at the prescription counter. The lid popped off and the corpse sat up, saying to the pharmacist, "Have you got anything to stop this coffin?"

A proctologist is a doctor who puts in a hard day at the orifice. He is the only doctor who starts at the bottom and stays there. When I was having a prostate examination, the doctor inserted two fingers. When I asked him why he did this, he said, "In case you need a second opinion."

Here is some interesting trivia for people who are poor with figures:

1 billion seconds ago, it was 1970.

1 billion minutes ago, Jesus was alive.

1 billion hours ago, our ancestors lived in the Stone Age.

1 billion days ago, man did not exist and the dinosaurs walked the earth, until wiped out by a meteor garden.

1 billion pesos are spent by the government every two days.

1 billion dollars are spent by the government every 3 months.

6 billion dollars will be spent by the government next year.

This is sufficient to give one dollar to every man, woman and child on our planet.

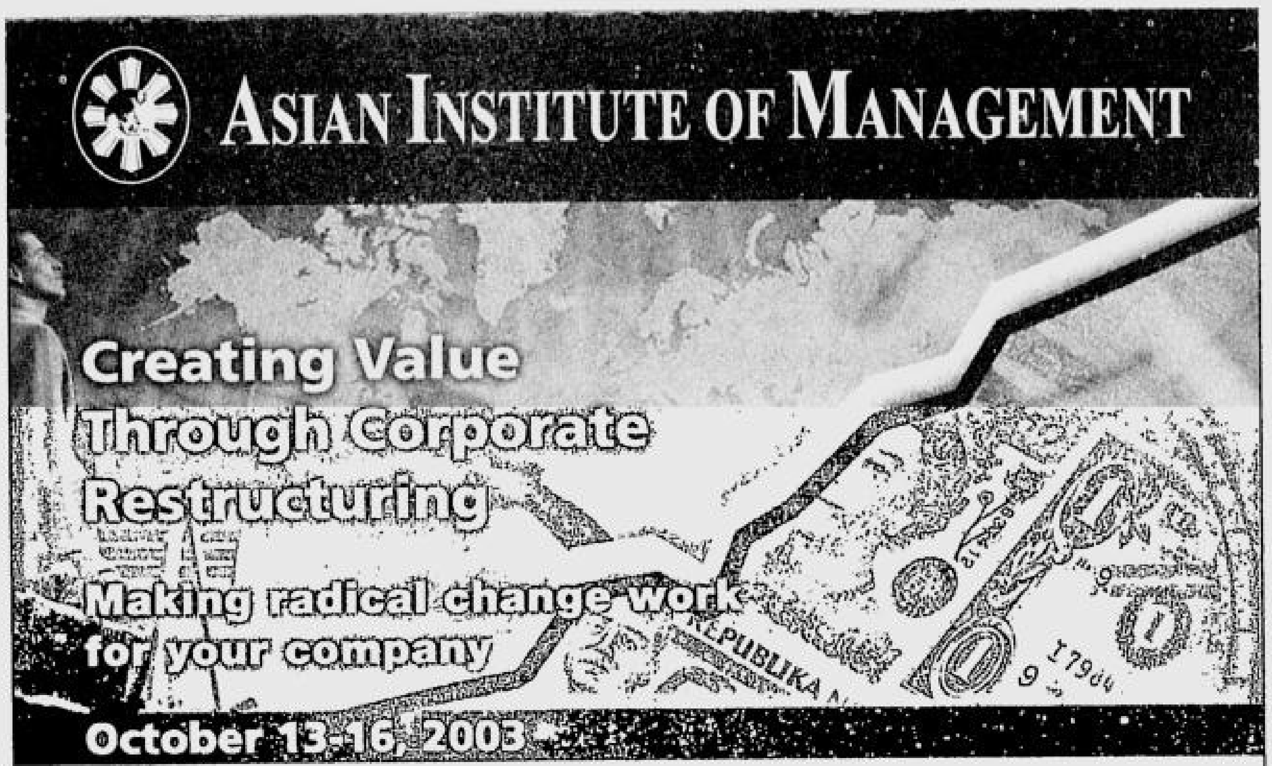
That reminds me. I am writing a thesaurus for diners, the first of its kind. I will probably call it Bearbull's Dinersaurus.

McDonald's opened a $10-million restaurant on Mars. The menu was fantastic, but it never became successful. No atmosphere.

* * *

LAST week, the risk factor was 5 on the scale of 0 to 100, so it was very low and I predicted a rally the previous Friday. On Monday, the market rose 9 points, on Tuesday 16 points and on Wednesday 23 points, a total of 48 points. On Thursday, there was an unexpected setback when it was announced that the export figures fell 7.9 percent, far worse than anticipated. As a result, the Phisix fell 8 points but on Friday, the bad news had been forgotten and the index recovered the previous day's loss. So it was a good week, up 37 points. Today, the index jumped another 18

BEARBULL/ B3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Prof. Grace S. Ugut, PhD is the Assistant Dean of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning (EXCELL) Center and concurrently the Program Director of the Executive MBA Program in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her research focus is on her fields of expertise: capital market development and derivative instruments. She is engaged in banking and finance namely treasury, risk management, corporate finance, and fixed income securities.

Prof. Ugut holds a Master in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi (1991) and a Doctor of Philosophy in International Finance from the Vienna University of Economics (1995).

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Fedex...

From page B1

Mendoza added that Lina had told President Macapagal-Arroyo herself that Fedx was here to stay.

"(Lina) made a courtesy call to the President and explained Fedex's position to her, that they're going to stay in the Philippines. It's not true that they're pulling out. They're even expanding," he said.

As a testament to Fedex's commitment to staying in the Philippines, he said the courier services provider has already identified a 50-hectare lot in Clark as the location of its new hub.

Mendoza explained that Fedex had some "technical problems" in Subic, something that prompted the Tennessee-based firm to transfer its regional hub somewhere else.

"Subic's facilities are too small for Fedex's requirements, which have expanded over the years. The Subic airport has very limited capacity so Fedex has decided to move to Clark. We are developing Clark into a fully operational international airport," he said.

In a statement issued Thursday last week, Fedex admitted that it had already signed a letter of intent (LOI) with the Guangzhou Airport Authority, but this did not mean a relocation of its Asian hub there.

"The LOI is a non-legally binding document, which enables us to gain access to information to enable us to assess the sustainability of the airport as an express hub for Asia," the statement said.

SMC...

From page B1

tons a year.

SMC, which now dominates the domestic beer market, would like to increase the revenue contribution of its offshore operations. To date, it earns only 15 percent of the P156 billion in net revenues from its overseas operations, mainly from four breweries in mainland China and one each in Australia, Vietnam and Indonesia.

The aggressive regional expansion aims to increase the contribution of its overseas operations to as much as 60-70 percent of the total earnings of the group.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 8, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	2,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43	42	42.5	1,112,800
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	34	33	34	70,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	29	28.5	29	264,700
Prudential Bank	300	300	300	300	300
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.75	29,500
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	31,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	6,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1720	1725	1720	1720	2,430
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.38	248,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1200	1200	1200	1200	980
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	25.5	24.5	25.5	48,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.64	2,920,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	655	665	655	660	15,150
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.047	4,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.045	9,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	50,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	6,410,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	600	625	600	620	320,660
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13.5	13	13.5	596,600
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	21.75	20.75	21.75	1,417,600
Petron Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	1,119,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.2	316,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	74,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	24,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	770,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	221,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.75	301,300
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53.5	53	53	122,500
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	62	62	91,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.4	6,482,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	310,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	76,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.6	0.56	0.59	24,840,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0975	0.105	0.0975	0.105	500,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.25	18.25	17.25	18.25	824,500
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	55	64	55	64	2,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.32	1.32	25,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	2.02	1.92	2.02	412,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	90,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	1,910,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.24	0.27	2,490,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	1	1.04	1	1.02	1,581,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,000,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	1,300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION& TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	60,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	25,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	13	13	29,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.52	800,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	15,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	30,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25.5	25	25.5	204,800
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	22,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	1,431,000
C & P Homes Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	780,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	1,650,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,010,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	280,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	18,261,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	550,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	15,000,000

DISCLOSURES

ROXAS Holdings Inc. bought 1,28 million of its common shares on Sept. 8 at P1 per share.

***

MANILA Jockey Club Inc. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Oct. 10, 9 a.m., at the Manila Hotel. The record date is Aug. 29.

***

UNIOIL Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. said stockholders as of Aug. 22 shall be entitled to attend and vote at its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 3, to be held at the West Room of the Manila Golf and Country Club at 2 p.m.

***

CHINATRUST (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. informed the exchange that it shall merge with another Taiwanese bank, General Commercial Bank. Chinatrust shall be the surviving entity. The effectivity date of the merger is Oct. 30. The operations of Grand Commercial shall be fully integrated with Chinatrust on Jan. 21, 2004.

***

EUNEY Marie Mata-Reyes, independent director of Jardine Davies Inc., was appointed the new chairman of its audit committee.

***

IN PURSUANT to PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.'s shares buy-back program, 15 million additional shares were bought on Sept. 4 at a total value of P19.5 million.

***

THE BOARD of Grand Plaza Hotel Corp. approved to offer to buy part of its shares from its stockholders on record as of Sept. 30. The buy-back shall be funded from its unrestricted retained earnings.

***

SOLID Group Inc. said it has no information regarding the 40-percent decrease of its share price. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 8, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.900738606	1.000000	55.060000
Japan	Yen	0.007705	0.008554	0.471000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.431634	1.589400	87.512400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.115497	0.128225	7.060100
Switzerland	Franc	0.65134	0.723118	39.814900
Canada	Dollar	0.657954	0.730460	40.219100
Singapore	Dollar	0.513651	0.570255	31.398200
Australia	Dollar	0.580785	0.644787	35.502000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.38929	2.652590	146.051600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.240191	0.266660	14.682300
Brunei	Dollar	0.512191	0.568634	31.309000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022142	0.024582	1.353500
UAE*	Dirham	0.245259	0.272287	14.992100
Euro	Euro	1	1.110200	61.127600
Argentina	Peso	0.307945	0.341880	18.823900
Brazil	REAL	0.309851	0.343997	18.940500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134775	0.149627	8.238500
India	Rupee	0.01965	0.021815	1.201100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.237068	0.263193	14.491400
Mexico	Peso	0.082765	0.091886	5.059200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.516301	0.573197	31.560200
Norway	Kroner	0.12132	0.134689	7.416000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015651	0.017376	0.956700
South Africa	Rand	0.120985	0.134318	7.395500
Korea	Won	0.00077	0.000855	0.047100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026476	0.029394	1.618400

RP, Singapore reach deal on petrochem row

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES and Singapore have signed a compensation agreement that finally put an end to their dispute over the tariffs on petrochemical products, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said yesterday.

Roxas, who attended the Asean Economic Ministers Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia last week, said that the Philippines and Singapore, during the meeting, had reached a compromise settlement that would serve the interest of both countries.

"This is a good example of how Asean neighborliness is applied as we found a solution (to our dispute) that will work for both of us, and that there will not be any form of retaliation (on the part of Singapore)," said Roxas in a briefing with reporters.

Under the deal, Roxas said Singapore would be compensated for the excess tariffs it paid for its petrochemical exports to the Philippines, which did not reduce its tariffs to levels provided under the Asean Free Trade Area agreement.

The compensation will come in the form of reduced tariffs on petrochemical products coming from Singapore and that are not locally produced. The tariff cuts will be equal to the excess amount of tariffs Singapore paid.

Roxas said initial estimates indicated that the Philippines would have to pay Singapore some $4 million to $5 million over a three-year period.

Singapore earlier complained about the Philippine's failure to reduce as scheduled its tariffs on petrochemical products, such as polyethylene, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride resins.

Tariffs on petrochemical products are scheduled for reduction to 5 percent under the Common Effective Preferential Treatment scheme of the Afta. Instead of reducing the tariffs to 5 percent, the Philippine government merely brought down its rates to a range of 7-10 percent, from the previous 10-15 percent range.

Singapore, claiming it was affected by the Philippines' decision to defer its tariff reduction, had filed a complaint with the Afta Council and asked for compensation.

$150-M NON-BANK REFORM LOAN

ADB sets 13 policy conditions

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will take the lead in the implementation of the 13 policy conditions tied to the release of the second tranche of a $150-million loan from the Asian Development Bank.

The ADB loan was earmarked for the financing of the government's second non-bank financial governance program.

Conditions tied to the release of the first tranche worth $75 million had been complied with.

The loan was designed to improve the country's non-bank financial sector, which remains small, underdeveloped and fragmented despite recent reforms.

Under the 13 policy conditions of the ADB for compliance in the next 18 months, the SEC will have to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Philippine Stock Exchange on the implementation of a business plan for the exchange's self-regulation.

The SEC will also have to amend its memorandum of understanding with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on joint-regulation.

Specifically, the MOU must be amended to provide an action plan and procedures for joint on-site inspections of regulated entities and to standardize regulatory and operational reports filed by both agencies.

The SEC should also commence the public disclosure on its website of annual audited financial statements and information on all registered non-bank financial institutions.

Also, the SEC will have to require auditors of non-bank financial institutions registered with the commission, the BSP and the Insurance Commission to report serious breaches of accounting standards to the regulator in the event the concerned companies failed to make public disclosure of such information.

The corporate watchdog was also committed to establish a system for monitoring and enforcing compliance with accounting requirements for all listed companies or auditors, including an arrangement for conducting investigations or special examinations to substantiate information provided by issuers/listed companies or auditors.

Repeat of power crisis feared

LEADING Cebu City-based business organizations have expressed concern over a possible repeat of last July's averted power crisis in the city due to the lack of permanent solutions to the power generation rate issue.

The business leaders said there appears to be another looming power crisis in the city in the wake of a recent statement by the Visayan Electric Company (Veco) that it was not willing to renegotiate its contract with its power generator Cebu Private Power Corp.

Erramon Aboitiz, executive vice president of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, which owns a major stake in Veco, was quoted in a newspaper report as saying that "we are not open to renegotiate the contract (with CPPC)."

It will be recalled that CPPC informed Veco, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) that it would have had to shut down its power plant last July 25 due to financial losses caused by the reduction of National Power Corporation (Napocor) rates in April last year.

Under the contract with Veco, CPPC charges are pegged at 2 percent lower than the prevailing Napocor rates.

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Drug firms put up ₱950-M distribution facility

BIÑAN, Laguna—Consistent with the government's call to lower the prices of medicines, a Swiss marketing and services company has tied up with United Laboratories Inc. (Unilab) and several pharmaceutical companies to put up a state-of-the-art pharmaceutical distribution center in Barangay Mamplasan in this town.

On Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo led the inauguration of the P950-million facility, which Diethelm Philippines Inc. (DPI) officials believe "will significantly boost reach and efficiency in the distribution of pharmaceutical and consumer products" in the country.

The President toured the entire three-hectare facility.

She did not deliver a speech but said that she was hoping "DPI's almost P1-billion investment would become P2 billion next year."

The distribution center, occupying a seven-hectare site within the 44-hectare Unilab Pharma Campus, uses an automated picking and conveying system designed by world-famous Swisslog Inc.

DPI president and general manager Juergen Hirschberg said the hi-technology materials handling system of the center would make it possible for products to reach its destination within 24 hours in Metro Manila while guaranteeing next-day servicing in the provinces.

He said conventional delivery service usually takes two to three days and is more expensive.

"We are happy to be able to open this landmark project, as it will further help improve the market coverage and decrease the cost of medicines and consumer products through superior distribution and logistics," Hirschberg said in a statement.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit also welcomed the development.

He said he expected that the center would invigorate the government's campaign to make medicines more affordable to the common people. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE is hereby given that **FIRST PROLIFE CREDIT COMPANY, INC.**, with last known address at 3rd Floor Dona Consolation Building, Gen. Santos Avenue, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City, which represents itself as a non-bank financial intermediary selling financial products and is recognized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), is not included in the roll of financial institutions under the supervision of the BSP. Accordingly, its representation of BSP recognition is false and misleading.

(Sgd.) ALBERTO V. REYES
Deputy Governor

20 August 2003

Bearbull . . .

From page B2

points to 1,259. We are now about two-thirds of the way up the cycle so the uptrend should continue this week. However, as we are in the neutral zone, 20 to 80, it is too late to BUY and too early to SELL. So this is not a time for frantic activity, rather a time to wait and see.

The outstanding stock, which has been extremely active and accounts for a considerable part of the rise in the Phisix, is TEL. DAIWA has been buying a large quantity every day for weeks and now other foreign brokers have joined in. Foreign activity shows net buying usually because of TEL. If we exclude TEL, we often have small net selling. Today, there was net buying of TEL amounting to P70 million, out of net buying of P80 million.

Over the past week, there has been heavy selling of BPI by ING, up to P30 million worth a day. However, it seems to have dried up in the last two days and the price has recovered slightly form P41 to P42.50. There has also been continuous selling of SMPH, and this is why the shares have barely moved in a rising market. To date, the selling continues even though the brokers concerned have a price target of P7.30. There is also selling of ALI and AC but not on a large scale. On Friday, there was increased activity in GLOBE. Without this daily information, you have little chance of being a successful trader. Subscribers get it every day, but you should be able to get it from your broker.

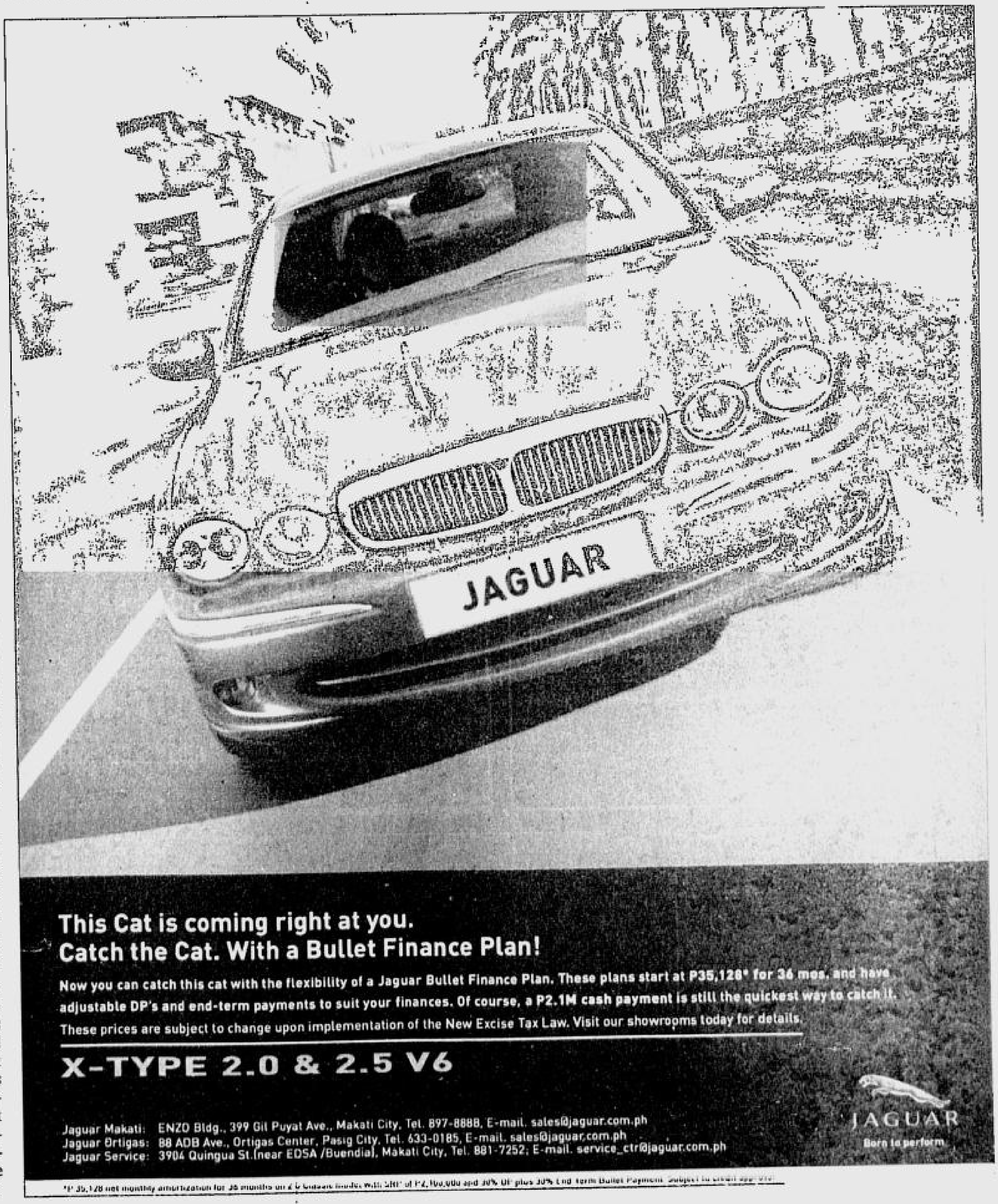
The most interesting stock to watch is TEL because, at P620, it has just broken its resistance level of P600 back in July. As TEL has broken out, the index is likely to complete its uptrend, but 1,308 remains a major resistance level.

The other stock to watch is GLOBE. According to Bloomberg, it is no longer going to give free text messaging to prepaid cards below P200. The company says it is uneconomical and will phase it out by Oct. 1. That may well be true but if TEL and DGTL continue to allow free text messaging on their low-paid cards, then I fear that GLOBE is going to lose out to its competitors, especially SMART which has gathered 700,000 new subscribers in the past two months. This means they now have 11 million, including PLTL, and by the end of the year they should comfortably exceed 12 million, particularly as the 4th quarter is the busiest.

I am told that DGTL is going to make its cut-price promos permanent. If this is true, then it could become a rival over time, depending on whether it can survive until 2005, when it hopes to break even. I doubt whether SMART and GLOBE will get involved in a price war, as the effect on their profits would be dramatic. Better to let DGTL have a small niche.

Wall Street has been going up like a Saturn rocket. On Thursday, the DOW was at a 15-month high and the Nasdaq at a 17-month high. This has been dragging up all other markets and the Hang Seng, Nikkei, Thailand, and many other countries were also at their highs, either for the year or more frequently for 15 months. Then on Friday, the government announced to everybody's surprise and disappointment that a further 93,000 jobs had been lost in August and the number of people who had lost their jobs since March 2001 was 2.8 million, mostly in the manufacturing sector.

At present, it looks as if America is in for a jobless recovery but is there such a thing? If people are still worried about their security of employment and others cannot find a job, how can consumer-spending increase? It is doing so at the moment, 0.8 percent in August, but only because of the tax rebates. This will probably continue into September as they were released over a period of one month but after that, what then? Technically, Wall Street is overbought and should see a correction. This will adversely affect most other markets but not necessarily our own since we are disconnected from the rest of the planet. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*



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Editor Aries Espinosa

Amex gives grant to Grameen Foundation

THE AMERICAN Express Foundation provided a $50,000 grant to the Grameen Foundation which benefited two non-profit organizations in the country: Tulay sa Pag-unlad (TSPI) and Ahon sa Hirap.

"American Express wholly supports the goals of these organizations for the betterment of Filipinos living within the poverty line," said Ian Fish, Amex country manager.

TSPI chief executive officer Ruben de Lara and ASHI president Mila Mercado-Bunker received the grant during the ceremony held at the Manila Peninsula recently.

"We hope that this grant will help a long way in these institutions' business plans in expanding their client outreach, and enable them to help more Filipinos who would like to achieve a better life for themselves," Fish added.

Grameen Foundation works hand in hand with Grameen Bank, a pioneer of small loans to the poor aiming to alleviate poverty all over the world. The Grameen Bank was started in Bangladesh in 1976 as an action-research project that attempted to provide small loans to very poor people to allow them to start micro-businesses. To date, Grameen Bank already has 2.4 million borrowers, 94 percent of whom are women, and has loaned more than $3.7 billion in amount.

Micro-credit is a proven anti-poverty strategy, as it provides small loans for the purpose of allowing families to earn additional income by investing in the establishment or expansion of micro-businesses such as livestock, food processing, tailoring and hundreds of other enterprise, said Fish.

Grameen Foundation, USA, was established in 1997 to provide financing, technical assistance and technology support to the growing number of grass-roots institutions that are successfully replicating Grameen Bank's success in countries as diverse as Malaysia, India, Uganda, Mexico, United States, and the Philippines.

In the country, TSPI and ASHI are just two of the institutions that uphold the objective of Grameen Bank which is to help improve the life of the poor segment of the society.

TSPI is a micro-finance institution which provides small loans, savings, and non-financial services to low-income families in Manila and outlying provinces. Established in 1981, TSPI has grown from a two-person operation to a team of 451 professionals through its 32 branches. It provides micro-finance services to 75,000 clients. Its business plan calls for increasing their client outreach to 430,000 in seven years. It is TSPI's hope that their clients would be able to pull themselves and their families out of poverty after a few years of joining the program.

ASHI began in January 1989 as an action-research project of the University of the Philippines to test the replicability of the Grameen Bank's approach to poverty alleviation through micro-finance. It is one of the first programs to have tried the Grameen methodology in the country. It has since grown to become one of the major Grameen replication programs in the country with over 14,000 clients drawn from the poorest families of communities where it operates. Its branches are located in Laguna, Rizal, Metro Manila, and Antique provinces. ASHI's business plan calls for expanding their client outreach to 50,000 in five years.

Amex Foundations has given scholarships, grants, and aid to schools, municipalities and other organizations. It recently provided computers to the province of Mayoyao in the Ifugao province.

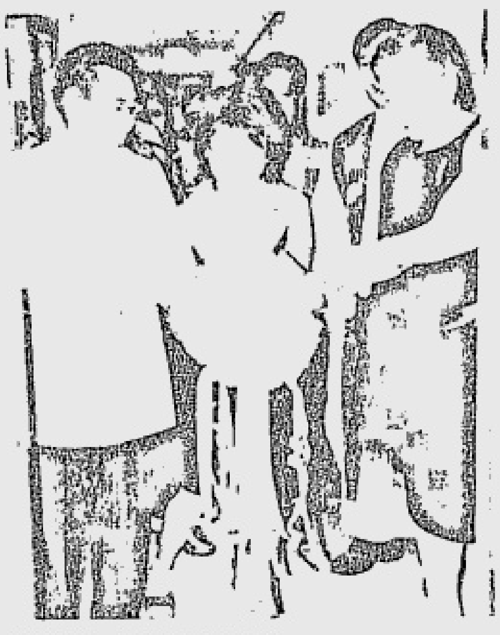
NESTLÉ SUPPORTS SOLID WASTE TRAINING MODULES

The Nestlé Cabuyao factory recently hosted a presentation to environment leaders by Dr. Diana Eruma and Consolacion Hilaga of the Department of Education of Solid Waste Management Training Modules developed by 35 Cabuyao school teachers under the supervision of 15 principals. The modules, which comes in two versions (one for grade school and another for barangay residents), will be used by environment leaders in conducting lectures in schools and community organizations These modules were developed as a project of the Nestlé Cabuyao Solid Waste Management Board.

CENTURY PARK HOTEL
FESTIVAL FOOD, FASHION DANCES, CULTURE
AND THE ARTS
2003

CENTRAL VISAYAS GOES WOW AT CENTURY PARK HOTEL

The Century Park Hotel recently had the contract signing for the Central Visayas Goes Wow at Century Park Hotel event. The festival slated from Oct. 15 to 30 is a festival of food, fashion, dances, culture and the arts. In photo (seated from left) are Susan Perez, senior assistant vice president of Air Philippines: Julio Tan, executive vice president of Century Park Hotel; Dawnie Roa, regional director of the Department of Tourism and Gina Virtusio, public relatior ager of WG&A. Standing (from left) are Frit manager for advertising of Air Philippines: Paul Gill, general manager of CPH; Angel Suntay, director of marketing of CPH; Jessica Avila, president of Chika-an chain of restaurants in Cebu Angeli Yatco, F&B director of CPH; Jessie Rivera, director of sales of CPH and Toti public relations officer of CPH



USHI LAUNCHING

Dr. Joselito Babaran, chair and CEO of United Specialists' Healthcare Inc., together with Lucy Romero-Babaran vice president for product development, and Fr. Abet Banayo assists Teresita Paynor, wife of Marciano Paynor, consul-general of the Southern Western States of USA and presidential adviser on foreign trips of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, during the launching of United Specialists Healthcare Inc. at Cityland Herrera Towers, Makati City last July 28.

Maybank Bacolod has a new home

MAYBANK Bacolod will now be servicing the banking needs of the Negrense population form a bigger, better location: at the ground floor of the R&B Building, Hilado corner Narra Streets, Bacolod City.

Just across the street from its old site, the new Maybank Bacolod branch boasts of a more conducive environment for banking and enhanced service delivery. It now has a more modern look, complete with well-lit banking hall, clear glass façade, and an ATM station for added banking convenience. Branch officers and staff are more than able to assist client inquiries on Maybank's various consumer and corporate products and services.

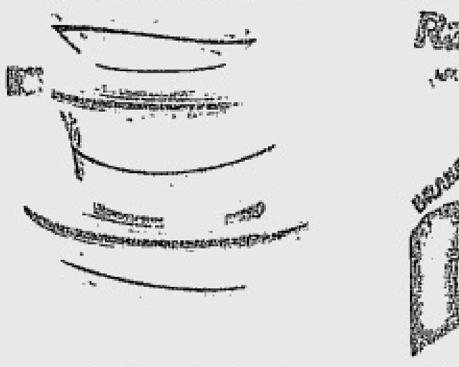
The big move is part of Maybank's thrust to identify and relocate key branches to strategic areas convenient to its clientele. It also emphasize the pro-active role Maybank Philippines wants to undertake in the development of the area by becoming a premier banking service provider.

Maybank Bacolod form a part of Maybank Philippines' network of over 40 branches nationwide. It is a member of the Maybank Group, Malaysia's largest banking group, ranked among Asia's best banks and the Top 130 in the world. Backed by over US$40 billion in assets, Maybank is present in major countries overseas with over 500 branches and representative offices worldwide, including Singapore, New York and London.

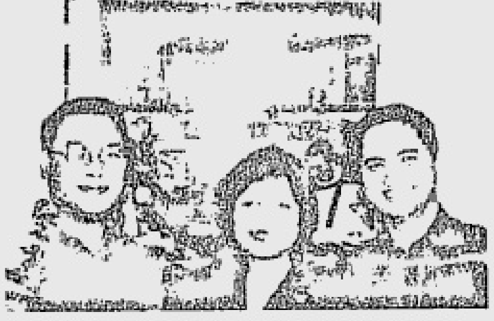
For more information on Maybank Bacolod's banking products and services, you may contact (034) 435-0050, 435-0051, 435-1443 and 434-5541 and look for branch head Marcelina Coo.

ProductFILES

Elegant serving at its best



TUPPERWARE Philippines launches Eleganzia Serving Bowls, a stunning new table service line, created to serve meals with style and elegance. The special two-color product technology, gives these two-toned servers a three-dimension illusion. They also come with new and modern seals that are easy to open and close, making the Eleganzia Serving Bowls virtually airtight and liquid-tight, locking in the freshness and flavor of food, while preventing leaks and spills. Truly chic, these servers come in 3 sizes - the 3.2 bowl you can serve your favorite pasta in, the 2.3 bowl that's ideal for soup dishes, and the 1.5 bowl that's perfect for sumptuous desserts. For orders and more information, call Tupperware Philippines at (02) 888-5521 or (02) 845-4798. You can also send your email to philmktg@tupperware.com.

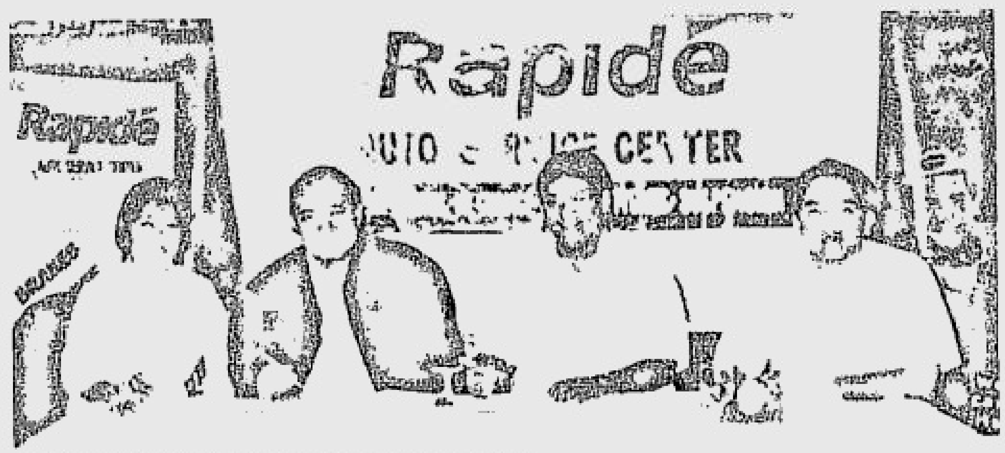


PROLAB OPENS TIMOG BRANCH

Prolab Diagnostics and Drug Testing Center opens its first branch in Timog Ave. corner Edsa. Providing you with most of your medical laboratory examination requirements, Prolab is backed up with state-of-the-art facilities that will surely give you accurate results in no time. Present during the opening are Dr. Donald Bautista, Pamet president Dr. Shirley Cruzada and Ronnie Puno. For inquiries, visit Prolab at Pasay Road, Makati (844-2507) and now in Timog Ave. Cor. Edsa (927-3425).

DSAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003

The Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP) formally inducted its 2003 officers during its recent general membership meeting. Shown in photo (from left) guest of honor and inducting officer, Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr.; chair, Joey Sarmiento, director, Bernie Mercado; director, Gary Huang; director, Jolly Gomez In photo are vice chair, Ricky Sy; treasu Voyik; and director, Perry Mogar. DSAP is the ganization of the country's top direct selling a network marketing companies. It is affiliated the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations with headquarters at Washington DC. US/



NEW RAPIDÉ AUTO SERVICE CENTER

Rapidé Auto Service Center, the largest automotive service chain in the country with 12 existing branches all over Metro Manila, welcomes its newest franchisee to open shop at the domestic airport area. In photo during the signing ceremony are (from left) Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Caba (franchisee); Joel Meneses, Rapidé Auto Ser Center franchise and business dev't manager and Rene Limcaoco, Golden Point Auto Care Inc managing director.

CITYSTATE SAVINGS BANK CITED AS TOP SAVINGS BANK

The National Consumers Quality Awards committee together with the National Consumers Affairs Foundation has cited Citystate Bank as 'Top Savings Bank' in a recent gathering of the 19th Annual National Consumers Quality and 2003 People's Choice Awards. Photo shows Rey Delfin, Citystate executive president (center) receiving the award for bank, handed over by NCAQ chair Gov. Justo Ortiz (3rd from right). Also shown are (from left) NCQ Board of Directors Celia Umali, Baby Luat, DND undersecretary Ernesto Batenga, PNRC Gov. Leonida Ortiz and NCQA chair Jonathan Navea. In December, Citystate Savings Bank was a recipient of the service award and bagged the topmost award by BancNet for having the highest ATM transaction approval rating among BancNet member banks.

Clips

1st National Heritage Festival this September

THIS year, the Philippines reaches a cultural apex with the first-ever celebration of the National Heritage Festival this September. Rustan's Makati plays host to the National Living Artist Exhibit from Sept. 15 to 21. From Sept. 19 to 25, there will be a photo exhibit of Unesco preserved and guarded heritage sites under its Science and Technology committee. Adding to September's jam-packed schedule will be a multitude of shows and theatrical performances, photography competitions, an art exhibit, walk tours, a bazaar, lectures, and even a Vinta regatta. Through the various activities, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and its partners hope to raise material support for the restoration, maintenance and pro tion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites. For a more detailed schedule of events, interested parties may call the NCCA secretariat at tel. nos. 527-2192 locs 502 to 504 and look for Michelle Gonzales or Evette Mari Banzon or visit the website at ncca.gov.ph.

MasterCard promo

MASTERCARD extends the phone-in registration of the MasterCard Priceless Desires until Sept. 10, allowing more cardholders to enroll and get the chance to win the grand prize of P250,000 shopping credits. Only purchases worth at least P1,000 in a single receipt made through the cardholders' MasterCard from May 16 up to Aug. 15, may be entered in the promo. To enroll, dial the Priceless Desires hotline numbers and enter the information contained in the sales slips. For Metro Manila cardholders, call tel. nos. 689-1000 or 914-1100. For provincial cardholders, call 1-800-10-7-250-000. You can also email the information at info@isa.com The grand draw is on Sept. 12 at 2:00 p.m.

Michael Buble Live in Manila

THIS September, Michael Buble comes to Manila, complete with his mini-orchestra back-up. Buble will sing his brand of music ranging from Sinatra's "Come Fly With Me", to Paul Anka's "Put Your Head on My Shoulder", Peggy Lee's "Fever", Van Morrison's "Moondance" among others. He is dubbed by the New York Post as "the sensational crooner that brings to mind the young Sinatra". Scheduled for Sept. 18, at the PICC Plenary Hall, this concert is one that music lovers should not miss. For more information tune in to Joey 92.3 and watch out for Michael Buble's interview at the Philippine Daily Inquirer. For ticket reservations and sponsorship inqu please call 8448153 and 8442906 Ticke are also available at all SM Ticketnet with telephone number 9115555

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

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Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

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HOUSEHOLD JOBS

[illegible] 309

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W/ NBI & BI 421-3026

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HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Sewer, M'dwife, Int'l Cook, Maid, Boy, Driver 6221420, 6 2 2 0 0 0 4

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206704 4540620

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313076

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9200424•

L-BAHAY 0303742/09208448004

LBAHAY 7113540

LBahay7433225

•LIPAT MM / PROVL 9205000

P1000/TRIP 742-14-07

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

LEON GUINTO
NEAR LA SALLE
Bnew/3Sty/3DR/3TB/grge
P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

PARANAQUE

MARCELO GREEN
Hse & Lot Rush Priced 2 Sell LA350m² corner 2sty 5BR 4TB DBO 6471240 0917-5312376

QUEZON CITY

•Sikatuna9210265/9210907•

ST. IGNATIUS VIL.cor 400m² 6BR 0919-2221760

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

RUSH SALE MAKATI CONDO 2.4M neg 9114705 ; 9114849

MANILA

930T nr UST 09208309744

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EMERALD TWR
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1-2-3BR nr La Salle TAFT 804-4510 0917-9853901

PARANAQUE

900T Condo Nr Airport
10% DP P9T/mo or 2Yrs No I/T. AYALA PROJECT STUDIO-3BR ACROSS SM SUCAT 0917-8313226

PASIG

ORTIGAS & nr d'PORT Condo 15-19T/mo. only 10%DP move-in 2-4BR. 1.5M-4M 09173242106

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 1.4M 10%DP 9132224

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

CAPITOL GOLF HILLS 5.5M 2BR Condo 78.5m² 9202407

New Mla 3BR,Attic 7.5M 4121025 - 0917-7914300

LOT

BATANGAS

5 - Hect Lot - Sto. Tomas Batangas. Ask P250/sqm Tel. 9106223 / 09272617300

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Cabuyao Laguna Multi-Land III 100sqm lots @P3000/sqm GSIS/Pag-ibig financing hse & lot package call Tess 810-0907 or 0917-9160285

PROVINCIAL

TAGAYTAY LOTS
Along H-way low dp/mo. 240m²-up Coldest Spot T5600704 Tello

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MANILA

Store Space 400-1 Z.P. Guzman Quiapo, P 10/mo. 7330330

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

TOWNHOUSE FUL FURN PVT. COMPD 3BDR 3TB 24HR SCTY W/SWIMPOOL 2CAR GARAGE CABLE GENSET STRONG H2O CALL 7102701 6323271 6310054 6323267

PASIG

ORTIGAS 3br Cndo 20T All-In Fully Furn 106m² 412-1026

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

2BR DTirona Proj4 421-6693

CUBAO P3.5T Std Lady 9124420

FOR LEASE

BelAir Studio P11T Furn 8907072

Fabella shop off 7233007

ROOM & BOARD

BF PQUE 8257624 ; 0276340

BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 85/120/140/185m² 8903401 loc 34 or 10 ofc hrs

G/F MALATE OFC 5260040

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.5% CARLOAN 7080367

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3077623/24

BUSINESS LOANS 524-3197

BUILDING FOR LEASE

400SQ. METERS 1st FLOOR & MEZZANINE COMMERCIAL bldg TANDANG SORA COMMONWEALTH Call 9326001

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Francisco Gold I EDSA 11T 73.40m² 1opk All-in 4121026

ORTIGAS CTR 43 70 110m² Sale/Rent 4121026

SALE/RENT Ortigas Ctr. 100.10m² CPK III-Flr 4121026

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

'03 A/T WELL MAINTAINED Dark Gray P416T ALL ORIG. Call 09168610193

MITSUBISHI

GGDELICA P240T4x4 DUAL A/C A/T TINTED300-0023

TOYOTA

2002 REVO DL 280K w/accs 2yrs ass bal 0919-6237700

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Land Cruiser Surf Dallon Safari Terrano MU Trooper Lite-Hi Ace Space Gear Serena Vanette Elf Suzuki Canter Elf Trade In Financing w/ Warranty neg At 9120647; 0917-8342020

Proton 96 All Power 1.0 same engine & parts w/ Mitsubishi GLXI P110T 926-7212; 0917-8400020; 920-0101

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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CAR LOAN

1.5% CARLOAN 3730519

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2% w/oTaking Car 8000030/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732001-02

2% w/oTaking Car 3600974/76

2% w/oTaking Car 8070400/06

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

23T New Comolt 6R Imold 7767507

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLAN 7137204

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/A'CON 7320000

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MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8700554

OFC MKTG STAF 20-45YO COL GRAD/LVL W/W/O EXP W/SALARY 9352002 ELAINE

OFC STAFF 09207417712 TAZ

OFCMKTG STF 09172610906 ABI

Wanted Graduate Teacher Expert In Eng. & Academics 772-3942/43

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit
Fr: Enrique "Jr" Del Rosario Family

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

Oxford Suites MAKATI

(Needs fresh & serviceable minded persons)

MANAGER
At least 5-10 years experience in restaurant or relevant service fields

WAITER/WAITRESSES
At least 3 years experience in restaurant
With pleasing personality and serviceable minded

ASSISTANT WAITRESS
With pleasing personality and serviceable minded
High school graduate

COOK/ASSISTANT COOK (Male)
- At least 5 years experience (cook)
More than 20 years old/high school graduate

CASHIER (female)
More than 18 years old/ high school graduate

Come in proper business attire and please bring two 2x2 pictures, complete RESUMÉ & SELF-INTRODUCTION LETTER (A4) with relevant certificates on Sept. 12 (Fri.) for COOKS & CASHIER and on Sept. 13 (Sat.), 2003 for the MANAGER & WAITER/WAITRESSES from 9:00a.m.-12:00noon and 2:00-5:00p.m. at the 3rd Floor of Oxford Suites, Durban cor. P. Burgos Streets, Makati City. PLEASE CLIP THIS AD.

Republic of the Philippines
Regional Trial Court of Manila
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 34

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE GENDER OF HEREIN PETITIONER APPEARING ON HER BIRTH CERTIFICATE

CARMENCITA PADER CANAPI-LACHICA
Petitioner

-versus- SP. PROC. NO. 03-107568

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR FOR THE CITY OF MANILA,
Respondent

ORDER

This is a verified petition filed by the Petitioner through counsel praying among other things that after due notice, publication and hearing an Order be rendered directing the Local Civil Registrar of the City of Manila to correct the wrong gender entry appearing in her birth certificate from male to female.

Finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the petition be set for hearing on October 23, 2003 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Branch at Room 546, 5th Floor, Manila City Hall. All interested parties are hereby notified of said hearing and are ordered to show cause why the Petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petition once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be chosen the raffle pursuant to P.D. No. 1079.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General and Civil Registrar of Manila copies of the Petition and of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines, August 26, 2003.

(Sgd.) ROMULO A. LOPEZ
Judge

(PDI—Sept. 9, 16 & 23, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late JULIAN Z. VILLAREAL who died on July 9, 2000 in Quezon City has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on Aug. 13, 2003 under Doc. 3643, Page 46 Book 401, Series of 2003 by Notary Public for Quezon City Jose L. Ma. Santos.
(PDI-Aug. 26, Sept. 2 & 9, 2003)

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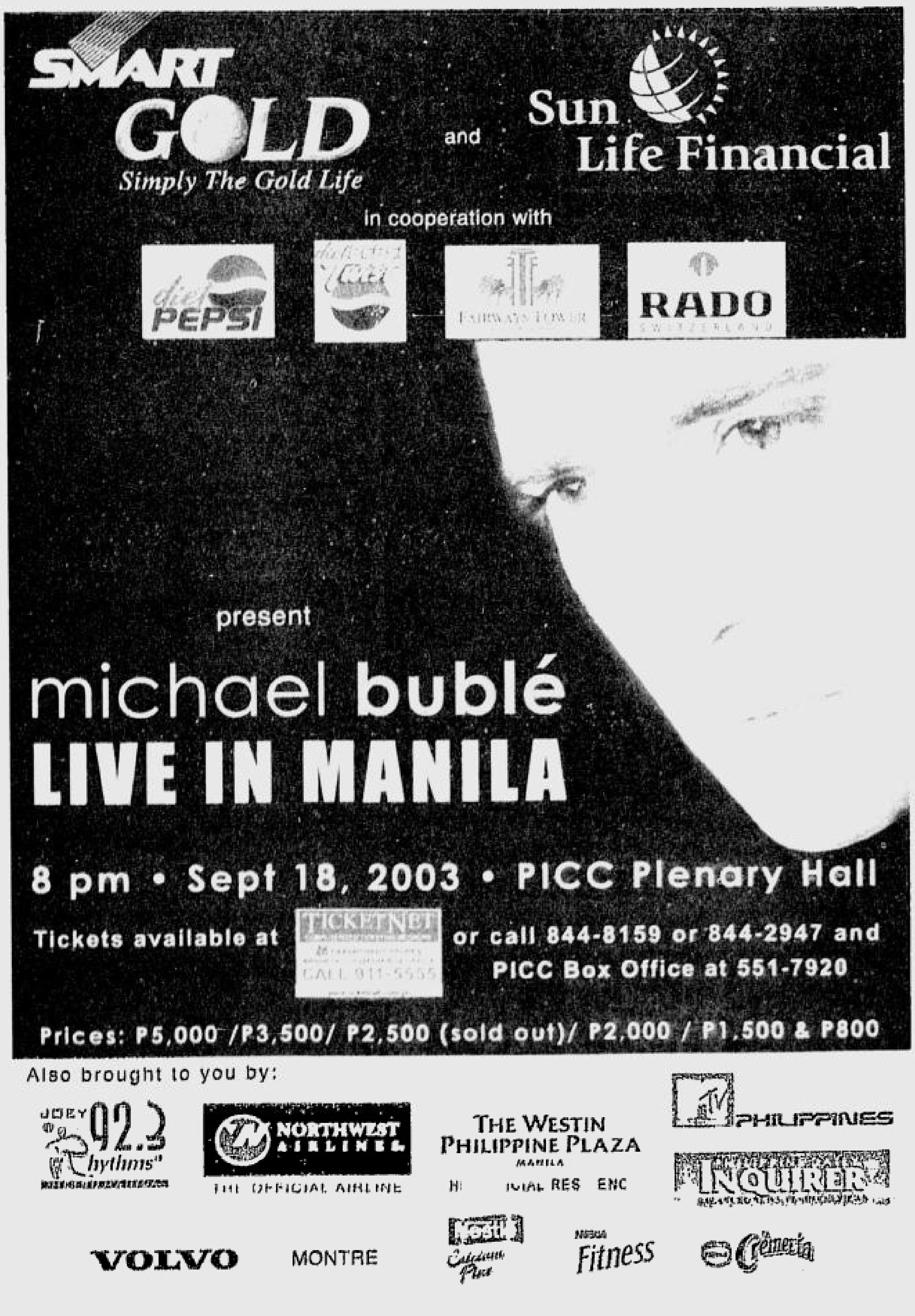
For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885 3739 or 555 0002 loc. 3739 and (0917) 627 8288. Offers should be sent Mr. Tejada at Building A, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY NORTHERN MINDANAO AND CARAGA REGIONS CALENDAR YEAR 2004

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Private Security Agencies with existing operations and offices in Caraga and Northern Mindanao Regions since January 2001, to participate in the Bidding for Security Services of the National Food Authority in said regions. The Security Services to be bidded shall be as follows:

SERVICES AREAS	NO. OF GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET
NORTHERN MINDANAO:		
LOT NO.		
1 Misamis Oriental/ Regional Office/Camiguin	24	P 2,831,940.96
2. Bukidnon	27	P 3,204,142.92
3. Iligan City/Lanao del Norte	15	P 1,765,602.00
4. Ozamis City/Misamis Occidental	12	P 1,424,063.52
TOTAL	78	P 9,225,749.40
CARAGA:		
5 Agusan del Norte/Butuan City	8	P 869,063.04
6. Agusan del Sur	12	P 1,303,594.56
7. Surigao del Norte/Surigao City	14	P 1,520,860.32
8. Surigao del Sur	10	P 1,086,328.80
TOTAL	44	P 4,779,846.72

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING:

September 10-22, 2003 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Submission of Letter of Intent/Issuance of Application for Registration and payment of non-refundable Fee of P2,000.00
October 3, 2003 Time. 8.00 AM - 3:00 PM	Deadline of Submission of Notarized Application for Registration and Requirements
October 9-15, 2003 (excluding Saturday and Sundays) 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Issuance of Certificate of Official Registration as NFA Security Service Contractor and Application for Eligibility and Requirements, and Payment of non-refundable Bidding Fee of P500.00 per lot
October 17, 2003	Pre-Bidding Conference Time . 9:00 AM Venue: NFA Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro
November 5, 2003	Opening of Sealed Bids Time 1:31 PM

Only NFA registered security agencies are allowed to apply for eligibility and to bid for security service contract.

For further information, you may contact Asst. Regional Director Mr. CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO at NFA Regional Office, 2nd Floor, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City thru Telephone Nos. (08822) 732-215 or (088) 855-2721 or Asst. Regional Director Mr. ALAN B. BORJA, CARAGA Region, National Food Authority Provincial Office, Capitol Drive, Butuan City thru Telephone Nos. (085) 342-7898 or (085) 225-6701. Application form and bidding documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. EMMA P. ASIÑERO.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) FLO G. PASCUAL
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 9 & 16, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

COMMITTEE ON BIDS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Supreme Court invites local assemblers, manufacturers, its marketing companies and authorized dealers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of one (1) unit Passenger Bus, with passenger bus chassis, sixty (60) seating capacity, diesel engine, air-con sub-engine (diesel), radio-stereo brand new with four-way speakers and sideward sliding windows.

The approved budget for the contract is Four Million Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (4,400,000.00).

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements, terms and conditions and other particulars from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Property Division, Supreme Court after payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on September 24, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 1, Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference of pre-qualified bidders shall be on October 1, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 1, Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representative on October 8, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at 4th Floor Meeting Room 3, Multi-Purpose Bldg., Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bids or offers which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government

Aug. 29, 2003.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI–Sept. 2 & 9, 2003)

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of Laboratory Equipment for Institute of Chemistry (IC), Institute of Biological Science (IBS) and Institute of Animal Science (IAS) with approved budget of 3.8M, 2.6M and 3.8M respectively.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 9-12/ 8:30am-5:00pm	SPMO
Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 19, 2003 Fri./10:00 am	SPMO
Opening/submission of bids	Oct. 3, 2003, Fri./ 10:00 am	SPMO

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts, catalogues/brochures/ other literatures, etc.); and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Supply and Property Management Office, UPLB.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the UPLB. The UPLB likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) TERESITA M. ESPINO
Chair, BAC

(PDI–Sept. 2 & 9, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER
North Ave. cor Science Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) invites all interested parties to submit sealed bid for Janitorial and Security Contractual Services.

SCHEDULE

Pre-bid Conference	Janitorial	September 18, 2003 10:30 a.m.
	Security	September 18, 2003 2:30 p.m
Submission of Eligibility Check/Commercial Documents/ Bid Offers and Opening	Janitorial	October 3, 2003 10:00 a.m.
	Security	October 3, 2003 2:00 p.m

Only those bidders attending the pre-bid conference may submit Eligibility Check/Commercial Documents and bid offers.

The Center reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to this agency

For further details please contact Supply Section, Finance and Administrative Division. Tel. No 927-0862 and 929-6036 ln 39 loc 306

(Sgd.) DR. DULCE P. ESTRELLA-GUST
Executive Director

(PDI - Sept 9 & 16, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

Auldey sponsors Cartoon Network Mayors' Awards

AULDEY, makers of Auldey Race-tins and Race-wins, honors two young leaders in Cartoon Network's Mayors' Awards.

Inspired by the animated series The Powerpuff Girls and in cooperation with the Metro Manila Mayor's League, the Mayors' Awards is the network's search for six outstanding boys and girls aged 10 to 16 years old from various municipalities in Metro Manila who excel in the fields of leadership, sports and the arts.

As the sponsor for the Leadership Category, Auldey will cite young "superheroes" who have shown exemplary leadership qualities and have greatly contributed to their organizations, whether in school or in the neighborhood.

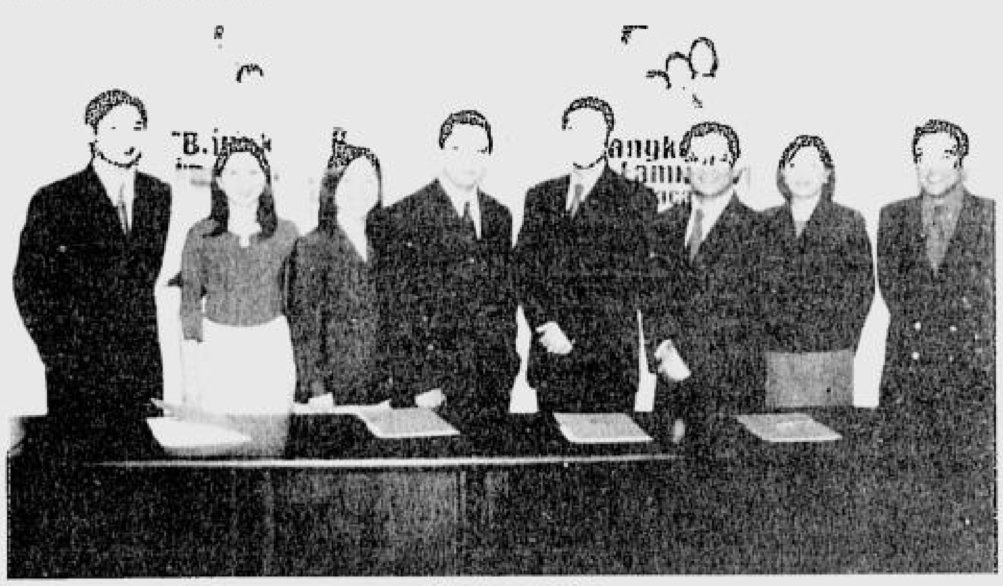
Two other categories are the Awards of Excellence in Arts and Awards of Excellence in Athletics.

Deliberation is ongoing and the winners will be announced in November this year. They will receive trophies, great prizes and will also be featured in Cartoon Network.

The recognition for today's young superheroes will also make way for the introduction of Auldey's newest mini hero: the Auldey Mini Racer. It's so small and compact, it can fit in your hand. But don't let its looks deceive you, because this latest wheel burning wonder zooms to rocket-fast action you've never seen before!

Available in two types: the Rocket-type and Power Drive- type, the Mini Racer also comes with a built-in racer charger which refuels the 2.5 inch racer in only a minute for non-stop action. Named 2002 Toy of the Year in the United States, Filipino kids and adults can now enjoy spectacular thrills with this diminutive hero on wheels.

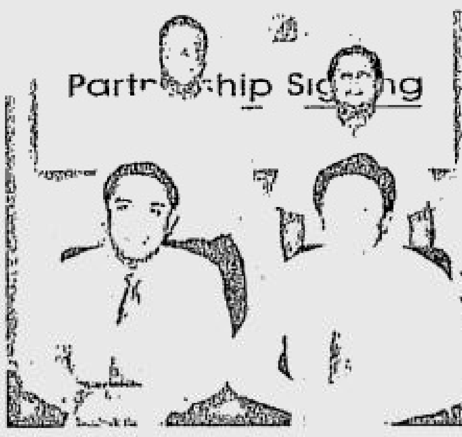
Get ready to know the nation's newest heroes in Cartoon Networks' Mayor Awards for Excellence with Auldey, the leader in quality racing toys. Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Zheng Trading.



BDO, WESTERN UNION BANGKOK PROMO

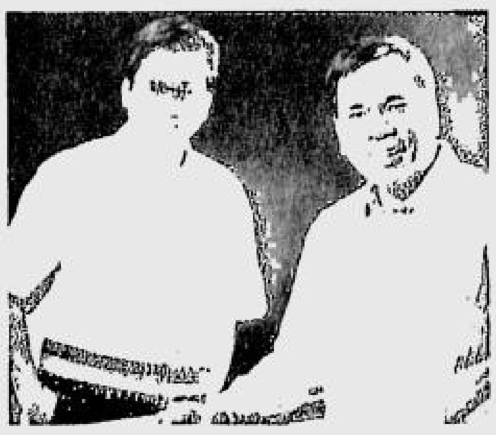
Banco de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) together with E-Business Service Inc. (Ebsi) and Western Union signed a contract launching the BDO-Western Union Bangkok Family Vacation Promo in all BDO branches nationwide. In photo are (from left): Ebsi network management officer Ronald Henares; BDO marketing and promo project manager Mary Jean Abiera-Ibuna; BDO VP for marketing support Edith Dychiao; Ebsi general manager Al Tady; BDO branch banking head Jaime Yu and Gerry Diaz; Ebsi chief network officer Rachel Cabalde and Ebsi chief marketing officer Joel Talosig.

ABBE, SEEBEYOND PARTNERSHIP



Abbe Technology Solutions Inc. (Abbe) and SeeBeyond sign a partnership agreement in providing cutting-edge Enterprise Application Integration (eAI) solutions in the market. From left (seated) Michael Ledesma, president of Abbe; Ali Hakim, country sales manager of SeeBeyond. From left (standing) Randall Mendoza, SE/customer engineer of Abbe; Ariel Encarnacion, senior account manager of Abbe.

JAZZ DUO AT EBISU



Ebisu, a Japanese bar restaurant along Jupiter Street Makati features the jazz duo of Henry Katindig on keyboards and Cadio Ferreria on vocals every Thursday at 9:30 p.m.. The duo plays standard and contemporary jazz music as well as other pieces of the 70's rendered in jazz arrangements.

Clips

Urban Institute seminar

THE URBAN Institute Real of Estate will conduct a seminar on "Buying and Financing Your First Home" today, 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City. Through the seminar, first time homebuyers will be protected from common mistakes and frauds and guide them on how to acquire their first dream homes. In buying and financing their dreams, first home buyer needs guidance to avoid frauds and mistakes along the way. Interested parties may call Urban Institute at tel. nos. 681-0928 or email:urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Seminars for executives, managers and supervisors

CORPORATE Achievers Institute (Coach) will be holding this September, three seminars focusing on key concerns of senior executives such as increasing profitability and shareholder value, organizational change, and effective leadership. Slated are the "Senior Executive Marketing Program" on Sept. 9, "Foundational Skills for Supervisors and Managers" on Sept. 23 to 34, and the "Senior Executive Change Program" on Sept. 26. For details, call Coach at tel. nos. 722-2318 and 727-7142. Coach is a division of Mansmith and Fielders, one of the most reputable training firms in the country which specializes in seminars tailor-made for senior executives.

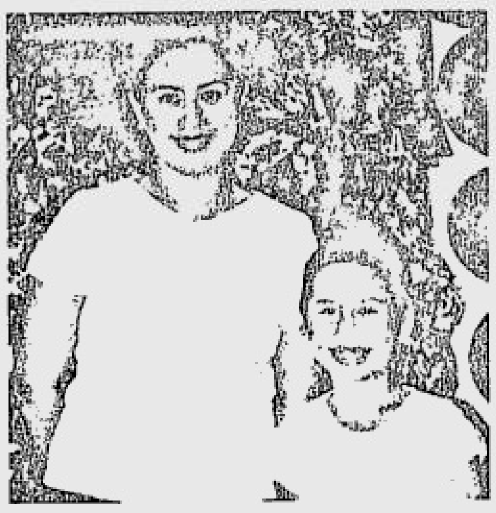
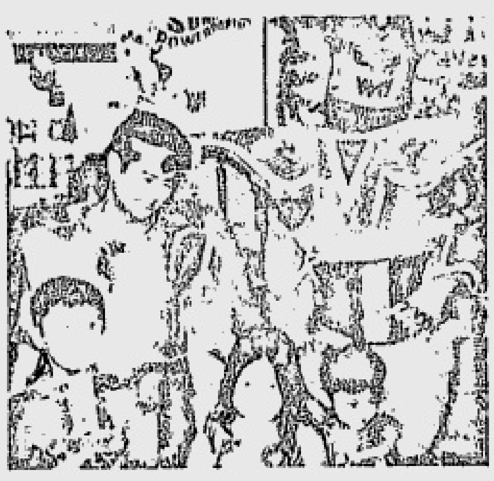


PHOTO CONTEST TOP WINNERS

Ruth, a mother of three, and eight year old grade 2 student Allison bested other BayanTel subscribers who submitted their best mother and daughter look-alike pictures for Bayan Telecommunications (BayanTel) and Kodak Philippines photo contest, receiving the top prize of almost P35,000 worth in cash and prizes. The awarding ceremony was held at the BayanTel Corporate Center in Diliman Quezon City, where contestants and their families were treated to a short program and food booths where ice cream, drinks and other goodies were served for free by partner companies From August to November. BayanTel subscribers can win entertainment and kitchen packages by just paying their bills on time with the Pay-on-Time, Win Big Time raffle promo.



POWERMARK KICKS OFF

OMF Literature Inc., publisher and distributor of quality Christian titles, kicked off its Powermark tour recently with a special presentation for children and the Sta. Lucia Mall in Marikina City. One of the gems of OMF Lit's Hiyas Children's Collection, the Powermark comic book series is the continuing story of Powermark's crusade against evil. Powermark comics is available at National Book Stores, Powerbooks, Christian bookstores nationwide, and OMF Lit in Manila and Cebu Powermark along with other Hiyas Children's Collection book characters will soon be visiting other malls and school campuses nationwide. For more information on this events, contact OMF Lit (Manila) 531-0141 747-9600 or (Cebu) (32) 412-5543, email at info@omflit.com, OMFLitCebu@OMFLit.com

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"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

Simeona Tirona Dayro

January 24, 1903 – September 8, 2003

Joined her Creator on September 8, 2003 at the age of 100.

Her sons **Bienvenido T. Dayro** (†) and **Ariel T. Dayro** (†), daughters **Celia D. Alano** and **Cora D. Ong**, daughter–in-law **Concepcion M. Dayro**, sons-in-law **Cipriano Alano** and **Jose Ong**, grandchildren **Hernan**, **Cynthia**, **Noel**, **Evelyn**, **Vanni**, **Marietta**, **Ferdie**, **Gerald**, **Jerome**, **Charmaine** and **Jason**, grandchildren-in-law, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Family Chapel, Filinvest 1, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

Cremation will be on September 13, 2003, 3:00 p.m. at Funeraria Paz, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

In loving remembrance

on the 1st Death Anniversary of

GLORIA CAMPOS BENIGNO

(Former Professor in The Ateneo Graduate School of Business)

on Sept. 9, 2003

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Church, Pasay City at 9:00 A.M. after which, we her family will proceed to visit her grave at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

May she be remembered today by those whose lives she touched during her lifetime.

"Though nothing can bring back the hour
of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower
We will grieve not, rather find
strength in what remains behind."

REMEDIOS VASQUEZ CONMIGO

of Boac, Marinduque

Died on September 2, 2003 in Antioch, California, USA at the age of 75.

She now joins her husband **Lauro** and son **Romy** and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord.

Her loving children: **Judith** and **Andoy**, **Evelyn**, **Lotlot** and **Gerry**; her grandchildren: **Lester** & **Monica**, **Nico**, **Wowie**, **Boom-boom**, **Mark**, **Jessa** & **Joseph**, **Miguel**, **Gabriel** & **Rafaela**; her brothers and sisters: **Manuel Sr.** (†) and **Rosita**, **Justo** (†) and **Felisa**, **Basilisa** and **Juanito**, **Soledad** and **Ildefonso**, **Rosita** (†) and **Teddy**, **Francisco** (†) and **Vangie**, **Minda** and **Fidel**; nephews and nieces, grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Premier I, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment is on Wednesday, September 10, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring. **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
① Copy of Death Certificate
② Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
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Our Dearly Beloved

Gregory T. Barretto

(15 October 1945 – 7 September 2003)

His wife **Milagros**; children **Greg** and **Debbie**, **James**, **Liza**, **Trina** and **Carlo**; granddaughter **Daphne**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 11, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church.

"You will forever be in our hearts, NANAY"

GUADALUPE (Upeng) JANDA MABOLO

December 12, 1916 - September 7, 2003
Boac, Marinduque and Pilar Village, Las Piñas City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 7, 2003 at the age of 86

Her loving husband **Pedro** (†); children **Erlinda**, **Florinda** & **Hector**, **Renato** & **Rosario**, **Teresita** & **Kim**, **Danilo** (†), **Noel** & **Chona**; grandchildren **Kiko**, **Gilbert**, **Eric**, **Carlo**, **PJ**, **Len**, **Paolo**, **Tracy**, **Mikee**, **Arianne** and **Anne**: relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Agoncillo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 14, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

ISABEL AMADOR DIONISIO

Died peacefully on Sept. 6, 2003 at the age of 89.

Her children **Daisy**, **Ronnie**, **Gene**; son-in-law **Arthur**; daughters-in-law **Elsa** & **Jean**; grandchildren **Christine** & **Joseph**, **Ronald** & **Randy**, **Cheryl Ann** & **Avel Gene** request their relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Chapel D, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Interment will be announced later

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
ERNESTO C. AVILA	Sept. 9, 2003	12:00PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Mem. Park, Calamba City	Laguna Memorial Chapel Calamba City

KAHANGAHANGANG PARANGAL PARA SA MINAMAHAL

REALESTATE

E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Women urge cleanup of excess construction materials

By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE'S still some use to that old pile of unused construction materials. Just ask the women.

Women leaders in the construction industry have observed that construction waste pile-ups have grown to such huge proportions that they've dubbed them as the country's biggest "garbage pile."

The Women In Construction, a seven-year-old organization of women leaders in the industry, is coming up with a step-by-step information telemarketing drive to transform construction wastes into usable materials.

Info drive

The information drive will utilize the network of developers and other involved organizations in the construction field. It also intends to learn the types of wastes each sector of the industry produces and what each particular group (e.g. housing developers) in the industry unloads its excess materials on a regular basis. These data would then be matched with organizations that need these wastes and would transform these into usable materials or put them in the market to be sold.

WIC is so serious in this project that it is putting up its own construction waste management call center. A symposium on environmental waste management was also organized in line with a Filipino-French business group.

"If you look at the cross section (of society), we see women who reflect principles of integrity and excellence, and our own little circle of influence. What we would like to do is to be able to touch base and grow in ripples one way or another," says Lillibeth Legasto, WIC president.

New addition

Women in construction, by themselves, are a relatively new addition to the industry. Let alone the issue of waste pile-ups, general acceptance into a male-dominated field has been an ideal the opposite sex has constantly sought for. Even as recently as 1996, the construction industry was male-dominated, and the few women who worked here became a source of strength for each other.

"Instead of competing with one another, we just synergized, networked and worked for what we could do for our country," Legasto says.

She says women in the construction industry could set an example of integrity and excellence in all practices not just for the males but for every individual as well.

Says Lagasto: "We have gone beyond women being just housekeepers, nurturers of family. We hone the woman as a whole not only practicing right virtues and values in the family but also in the workplace as well as in the community."

Apart from the "cleanup" of excess construction wastes, scholarship programs in engineering and architecture are some of the projects the group is currently undertaking for promising but financially challenged students. The group is sponsoring three scholars at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Free seminars for engineering and architectural students are also being conducted at the UP, PUP and Adamson University.

With the help of construction companies, the seminars aim to impart to these students the newest construction techniques and technologies.

Every WIC member, about 45 of them, also nurtures personality development.

Women members include Ellen Chua, president of the Association of Concrete and Asphalt Producers of the Philippines. Another member is architect Prosperidad Luis, dean of UP College of Architecture.

Major construction event

WIC will be part of one major construction event that will showcase a low-cost housing system, architectural and interior decorating, tools and hardware, safety and security equipment, environmental planning and equipment, professional services, property development, cleaning and maintenance services.

Its first major convergence with the major sectors of the real estate and construction industry will take place from Sept. 25 to 27.

Backed by Convex International, DesignBuild 2003 will gather construction associations, architects, suppliers, engineers, manufacturers, personalities in the design and architecture sector, property owners and developers at a trade show at the Philippine International Convention Center, Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

The "Disenyo" is the design epicenter spearheaded by the WIC Foundation. The real estate and home fair would be intended for home buyers on the lookout for basic and luxury residential and commercial spaces with the assistance of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations. The building show would be about project planning, designing, development and construction, marketing, operations and management. Construction Philippines would be about the latest building and construction materials and machines.

Deadly myths about house construction

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

I HAVE compiled a long list from our readers who have been asking me about their beliefs (or should I say superstition) about the construction process. It is best that we discuss and clarify these deadly myths for these are unfounded and often times deadly and only serve as a deterrent to quality construction.

These deadly myths are:

BUILDING DREAMS

Myth No. 1: The more steel that I put in the concrete, the stronger the house will be.

Some owners, when they visit the site, always instruct the construction crew to increase the amount of steel to be placed in the columns and beams without the knowledge of the structural designer. They feel that the rewards of the additional expense are great but this will only give them a false sense of security.

In structural engineering, there should be a maximum number of steel for every amount of concrete cross section. In simple terms, it is safer to have a structure that has the right amount of steel bars than to have one with too much steel reinforcement. Too much steel bars also would not allow concrete to pass through during concrete pouring. The result would be a concrete structure that is full of hollow spaces which is structurally unsafe.

It is natural for the human mind to think that more is better. But this is certainly not true when it comes to steel reinforcement. There is an optimum balance of steel and concrete that will give you a structurally sound home which only your structural engineer can design.

A certain characteristic of a structure is called ductility, the ability of the structure to deform during an earthquake. If it is not ductile enough, then it is brittle and can crack and even collapse during an earthquake.

I feel a little nervous when I meet a house owner who boasts that the steel in the foundations, columns and beams of their house were doubled. It may imply that they have made an expensive and unsafe home.

Myth No. 2: After pouring concrete, you should not wet for it will only weaken.

Immediately after pouring, it is bad to wet concrete. But a few hours after it sets, then effort should be done to keep it wet. Wetting concrete with clean water on regular time intervals is called "curing." This process will prevent moisture loss and prevent cracking. By this, it will set properly to its design specifications.

Concrete should not be loaded and used until it sets fully. For normal mixtures, it takes about 28 days for concrete to reach its design strength.

Myth No. 3: It is OK to move this column a little bit.

When owners visit the site and when they feel that they do not like the location of a column, they ask that it be moved without consulting the designer. This practice can be dangerous since the framing of the house will be changed and its structural behavior will be affected.

If you will change the sizes and location of the columns in your house, make sure that you have it done with the consent and redesign of your structural engineer. The designer will have to analyze the house framing again and assess the effect of the column relocation.

Myth No. 4: Animal blood will make the construction site free of accidents.

Construction sites, especially in the provinces, have the ritual habit of slaughtering chicken or even bigger animals as an offering at the start of a project. But this is more of an excuse rather than the truth to it for after the slaughtering, the animals will be eaten by the construction crew.

The offering of animal blood has nothing to do with the prevention of accidents at the construction site. A well-planned and well-communicated safety program is necessary to ensure a safe construction site. Workers should have adequate safety gear to protect them in case accidents occur.

Myth No. 5: If I can negotiate for the lowest price, I will have a well-built home.

Having a house that is completed on budget is not about a test of your negotiating skills. It is about acquiring professional, reasonably priced, quality services. Builders will give you a discount only if they feel that they can still deliver your requirements with the budget that you are giving them. Try squeezing them on price and you will be very unhappy with the outcome of the results.

Myth No. 6: It is only a house so I will just ask my nephew, who is an engineering student to design and build it for me.

Never ask someone who is not qualified and licensed to design your home for the simple reason that they should not be doing it in the first place. They may try to show off that they can design a house but they need training, experience and most of all—a license to do the job.

If you think that you can save a few thousand pesos for the job, are you willing to compromise the safety of your home and your family? This is one of the best examples of false economy.

Removing the myths—Always ask for the services of a competent and licensed engineer to do the job for you. These engineers have the knowledge, education and experience that will help you build the house of your dreams.

(You may reach Alexis A. Acacio at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.)

Housing, urban dev't up at Creba confab

HOUSING and sustainable urban development issues and strategies will take center stage at the joint national convention of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council on Oct. 2-4 at the Holiday Inn Resort at the Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clarkfield, Pampanga. Convention theme is "Sustainable Urban Development: A Key Towards A Strong Republic."

This was announced by Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. and overall convention chair Pedro C. Tario.

The convention coincides with the 30th anniversary of Creba, the largest and the oldest industry organization. Lawyer Manuel M. Serrano, board chair, led sector leaders in founding Creba in the continuing effort to make housing and urban development a major pump-primer in the national economy. Creba has been serving as an active advocacy group for the industry, its public and overall national development.

National forum

Dulalia and Tario said the 2003 Creba-HUDCC convention will provide a national forum through which the industry stakeholders will address current housing and sustainable urban development issues and strategies.

Thus, they said, emerging ideas and existing programs in real estate and sustainable urban development will take center-stage. Special focus will be the efficient use of real estate assets through vertical developments such as medium-rise buildings, available credit facilities for local government unit housing projects and the thrust in expanding the network in the international market, and a business matching program.

As the Philippines continues to go through the process of healing and building a strong Republic, they said, the housing sector continues its effort to regain and maintain its position as the major pump-primer of the national economy.

Responsible persons

Former Rep. Amado S. Bagatsing, HUDCC vice chair, and Purita R. Soliven, Creba executive vice president, are overall convention co-chairpersons.

The host Creba chapters are Angeles City chapter under president Sandy Nepomuceno, Bataan led by Fernando Roman and Pampanga under Eller Garcia.

The various convention clusters for specific activities and facilities are headed by overall vice chairpersons Teresita C. Millan, finance and budget; Jerry M. Naverrete, sponsorship and ways and means; Editha L. Mansansala, souvenir magazine and exhibit; Rosemarie C. Basa, media relations, promotion and publication, and news supplement; lawyer Luis B. Pangilinan Jr., program and protocol, preconvention workshops, and business matching; Avelina P. Acuña, attendance and registration, reception, transportation and communication and other organizations; Thad R. Liamzon Jr., fellowship, sports, transportation, motorcade and courtesy calls.

The cluster members are Basa, sponsorship; Orlando S. Bongat, ways and means; Prosy Montesines, Creba Youth; Jaime A. Cura, media relations; Eduardo Gutierrez-Ong, promotions/ publication; Choy Alas, news supplement, program and protocol; Sammy G. Valencia and Florente C. Ofrecio, preconvention workshops; Nikki Bautista-Gilladoga and Edmon Tario, business matching.

Choy Alas, local, and Rafael Pula, international for attendance and registration; Pat Garcia, Sandy Nepomuceno, Louie Reyes and Cathy D. Yulo, reception; Eugene C.Yu, Fernando Roman, Eller Garcia and Manuel T. Ramos, transportation and communication; Ofrecio, other organizations; Lilia Aaron, fellowship and sports; Demy Posadas, bowling tournament; Elizabeth Chang, ballroom dancing.

Other Creba national officers are Bongat, VP-finance; Mansansala, VP-internal affairs; Techie P. Bautista, VP-external affairs; Acuña, VP-chapter affairs; Pangilinan Jr., corporate secretary; Millan, treasurer; Alas, auditor; Basa and Gutierrez-Ong, public relations officers.

Board directors are Cura, Franklin G. Fuentebella, Liamzon, Navarrete, Ofrecio and Posadas, while Tario is presidential adviser. The Council of Leaders is composed of Serrano, Antonio S. Dimalanta, Victorio V. Soliven, Nathaniel Von Einsiedel, Amado S. Bagatsing, Arsenio L. de Castro, Antonio A. Turalba, Raul Z. Requesto, Charlie V. Gorayeb, Pete C. Tario, Domingo D. De Vera, Porthos P. Almajose, Carlos A. Rañeses, Navarrete and Jaime A. Cura.

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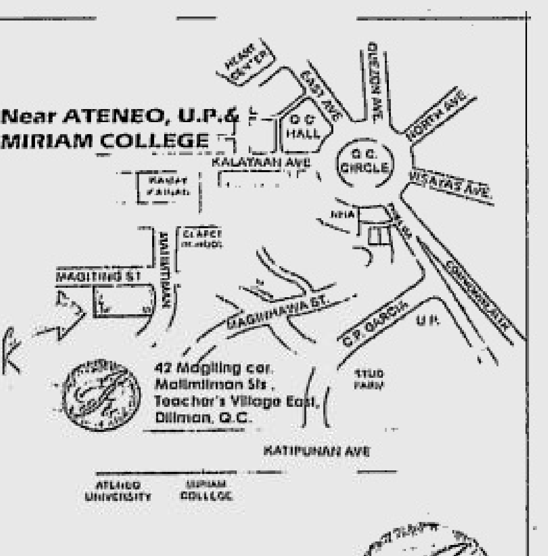

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Araneta Center: Business, retail hub of the future

By Charles E. Buban

YOU may have noticed that the Araneta Center in Cubao is in a state of flux.

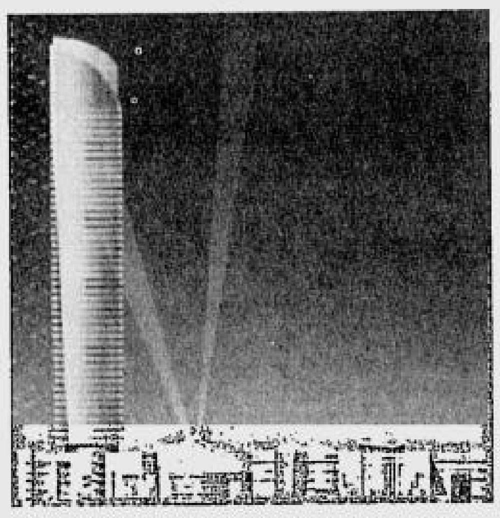
But whatever changes you are now seeing are just the initial phase of an ambitious $1.25-billion (P68.5-billion) master plan to transform the area into a prime business and retail center in 20 years.

Araneta Center MasterPlan, as it is called by its planners, will involve the construction of a multistory mall surrounding a renovated Araneta Coliseum, hotel facilities, and the Manila Tower, a towering communications building that will rival Paris' Eiffel Tower in height.

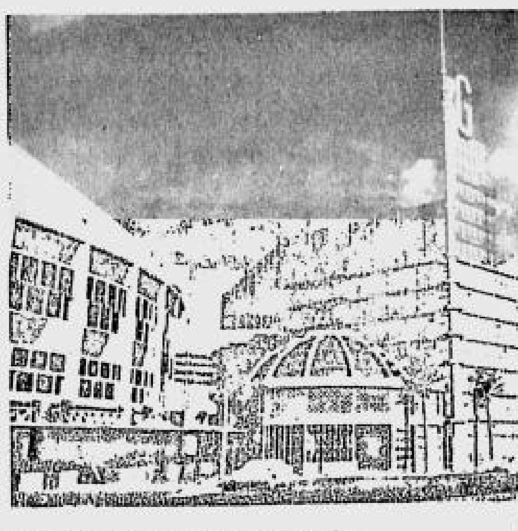
As soon as the first phase is completed, Araneta Center will be the largest shopping center complex in the world, according to the consulting firm RTKL from the United States.

800,000 people

Converging daily in Araneta Center are more than 800,000 people, a big market that has led to the redevelopment plan.



A TOWERING communications structure will highlight the future Araneta Center.



GATEWAY Mall will link Araneta Coliseum to the two major mass transit lines crossing Araneta Center.

And to "catch" this market, a P2-billion shopping mall, called the Gateway Mall, will offer five levels of shopping, dining and entertainment destinations. It is expected for completion by March 2004.

The 100,000 square-meter mall will also showcase 10-screen Warner Bros. Cinemas, including a 40-seater Gold Club Cinema.

Integrated atop Gateway Mall is a seven-story office tower called "cyber offices." These offices will be equipped with advanced telecom facilities and broadband technology to meet the unique requirements of modern-day entrepreneurs engaged in the business of information technology.

Gateway Mall will be directly linked to two major transit lines (MRT 3 and LRT 2) and the Araneta Coliseum.

35-hectare property

It was in 1952 when Filipino industrialist Don Jose Amado Araneta purchased Araneta Center's 35-hectare property bounded by Edsa, Aurora Boulevard, P. Tuason and 15th Avenue.

Since then, Araneta Center has become one of the largest retail entertainment mixed-use centers in the Philippines.

It boasts of these landmarks: the Araneta Coliseum, one of the world's largest clear span domes and Southeast Asia's largest indoor facility; Ali Mall, the country's first multilevel commercial mall; New Frontier Cinema, one of the country's largest theater with over 3,500 seats; and Fiesta Carnival, the country's first all-year indoor amusement center.

In 2000, Araneta Center set into motion phase one of the MasterPlan with the renovation of Araneta Coliseum and Farmers Plaza.

The redevelopment project carefully considers both upscale and economy markets. For example, *tiangge*(flea market) centers are now concentrated in one area. It also considers ultimate comfort and convenience, thus, the design of the new Araneta Center will put shopping and entertainment destinations side by side with the business centers.

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Decorating basics for your home

DECORATING a home is most exciting for homeowners, because it gives them a chance to manifest the kind of environment they would like to reside in. There are countless ways to make the bare four corners of a brand-new structure to liven it up into a comfortable home for a family.

Since interior decorators can charge quite a hefty fee, you can always do the interiors yourself, with the help of research (magazines, books, the Internet), and just by following your own desires. Before you begin any endeavor you first have to find out your needs, what should be improved, and create a comfortable practical style that is your own. It's also important to know your specific guidelines and limitations, especially your budget.

Decorating successfully includes functionality, mood expression and a sense of harmony, which should be followed for all the rooms. There are several styles of decor such as Mediterranean, Country, Traditional, Shabby Chic, Victorian and Asian, so once you realize what you want for your home, consult relevant literature which advises the appropriate components of each style.

Basics for your interiors

Then take note of the following basics for your interiors:

- **Flooring**—Flooring choices are extremely important in practicality, function and design. The flooring is the foundation for building your decorating scheme. Before you decide on floor coverings, consider how the room will be used and what kind of wear it will have.
- **Walls**—Paint, wallpaper and architectural moldings each have a purpose in your decorating project, essentially since they are the backdrop for everything else inside. The mood, ambiance, personality, charm and style of your room or home are all manifested by these components. Your home is a reflection of you and your family, and it should be pleasing to you.
- **Furniture**—This is the most high-priced decorative expense you will have in your home. First, define the uses and needs of a particular room. In some cases it is obvious, while in others, your lifestyle and purpose for this space will dictate the style and pieces needed.

Large upholstered pieces are a big investment, so consider buying solid or tone on tone classic pieces in colors that are versatile and compatible with many styles and color schemes. Bring in the pattern on the smaller accent furniture pieces, accent pillows and window treatments.

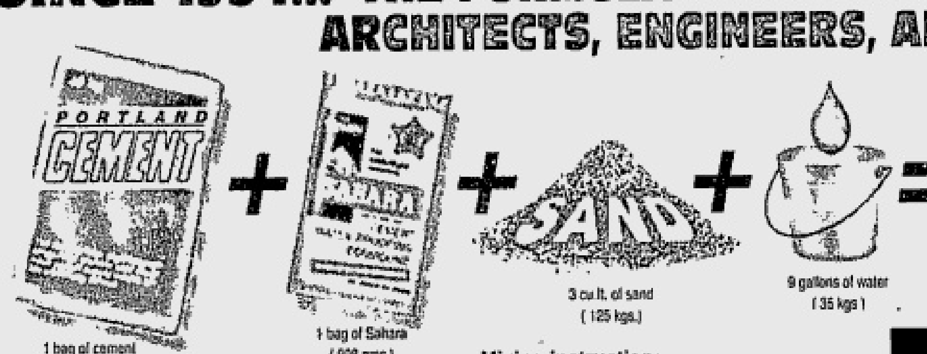
- **Lighting**—Proper lighting provides illumination, creates interest, improves safety, and establishes mood and ambiance. Good lighting is both functional and decorative, and careful planning will give you the best results for both attributes. The amount of lighting needed will vary depending on the wall color, natural light available and personal preferences.
- **Artwork**—Art is a powerful accessory if used and hung properly in the home. It adds style, color, personality, charm, wit, elegance, beauty and just about any other adjective you can imagine. Your personal taste is the most important factor when choosing art for your home. It should be a reflection of your personality and preferences and is the fifth step in decorating a room or home.
- **Accessories**—They give your home a lived in, comfortable look. They are invaluable in helping achieve color and design balance. The accessories and artwork in your home are direct reflections of your interests, personality, taste and style. They do not have to be expensive to achieve the goal. Color, scale and balance are far more important than monetary value.
- **Floral/greenery**—Trees, greenery and floral arrangements are the final and seventh important element in a completed design project and they should not be ignored. Flowers and greenery provide life, interest, balance, color, sizzle, impact and drama. Their part in the overall-decorating scheme is vital to a beautiful room or home. And the best advice when it comes to decorating? There are no rules so don't be afraid to be creative. If it doesn't work, try and try again.

Solution to pesky termites

Today's most popular decor styles in the country are Mediterranean and Asian, which are both known for using a lot of wood. The "natural" look is very trendy nowadays, and this style makes your home look more expensive and elegant. For experts, however, the use of wood means only one negative factor in mind: termites.

Fortunately, science has come across a solution to the pesky termite problem. Homeowners have been advised to ensure that their houses are built on "good ground" which is pretreated with termiticides prior to construction. The trusted brand to provide efficient preconstruction treatment is Dursban Premium Termiticide Concentrate from Dow AgroSciences. Dow AgroSciences is dubbed an industry leader in pest control, specifically for termite protection. Among other termiticides in the market, customers get the best deal from Dursban because it offers absolute termite extermination, environment-friendly, has low odor, and most of all, is affordable for medium to low-budget homes.

Keep your house and building free from pesky termites and ask your pest control operator to use the right and effective termiticide: Dursban. For inquiries call 772-5006 to 07 or 772-5011.



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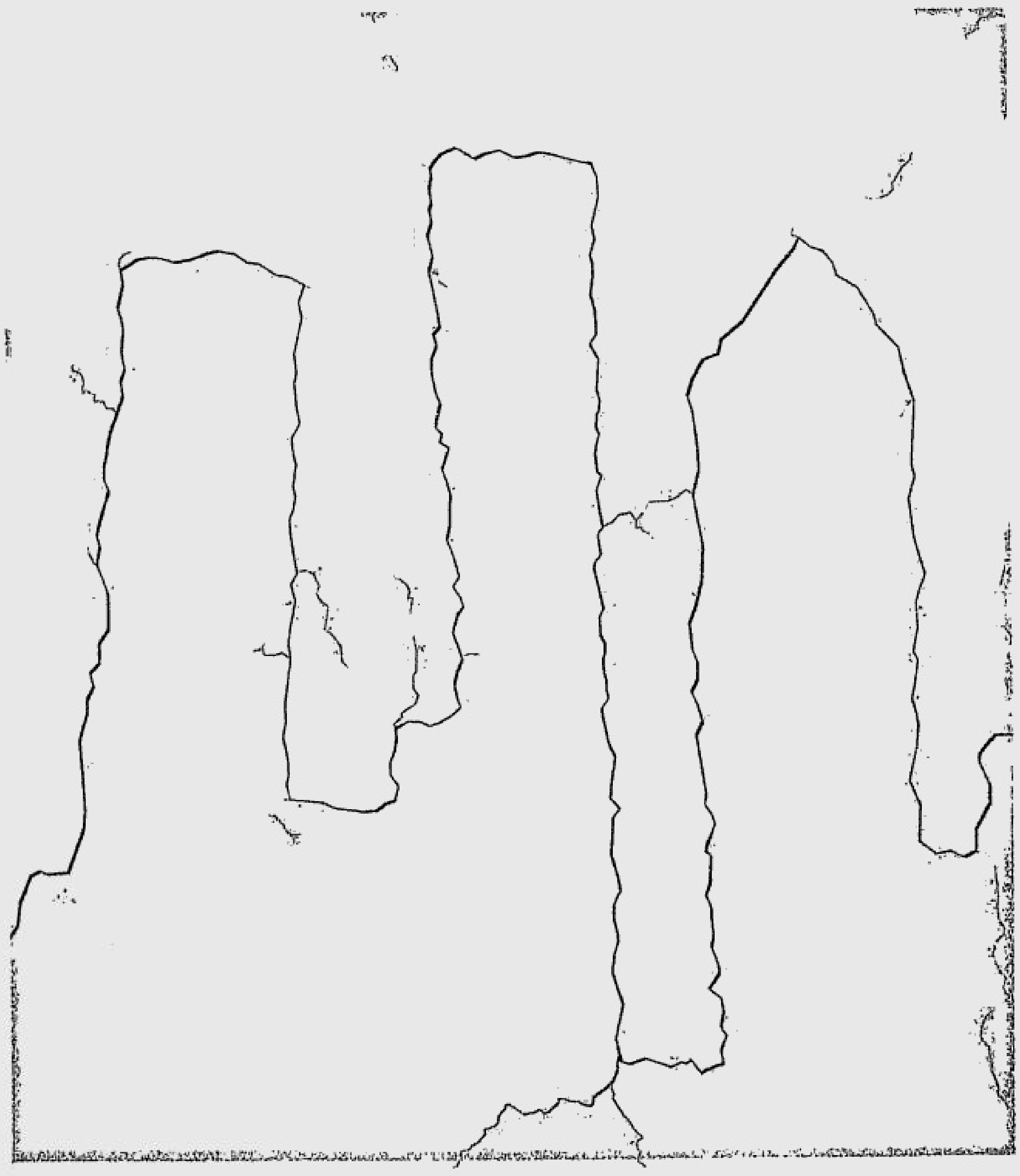

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No plan to subsidize oil prices, DOE says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday said there was no plan to subsidize oil prices even as 43 fuel stations have started to give discounts to transport groups in Metro Manila.

Seven companies—Petron Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Philippines, Unioil Petroleum Philippines, Cityoil and USA 88—have offered price incentives in stations located along major thoroughfares in the metropolis.

Plying these routes are jeepney groups such as the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association (Fejodap), Altodap or Federation of Rizal Cubao Operators and Drivers Association (Fercoda), PCDO-ACTO, Pasang Masda and Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytors Nationwide (Piston).

Of the participating oil firms, Petron and Caltex have six stations each, Cityoil and Unioil have eight each, Unioil has seven, USA 88 has five and Shell has three.

The DOE said the discounts ranged between 20 centavos and 50 centavos per liter of diesel.

"While we cannot stop price adjustments, we could help temper the effects of these with the discounted prices," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said.

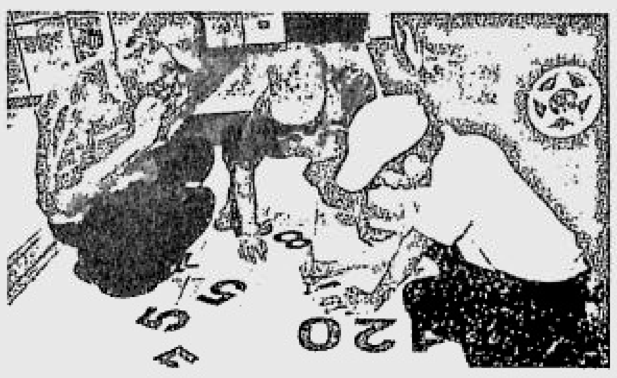
"We hope (the discounts) would provide relief to the transport sector at this time when prices are volatile," Perez added.

Perez said the government would cooperate with the private sector in finding ways to cushion the impact of rising prices but ruled out the possibility of subsidizing prices.

Diesel pump prices went up by some 70 centavos per liter in August due to rising prices of petroleum prices in the world market and the depreciation of the peso against the dollar.

Meantime, the Consumer and Oil Price Watch said last week that prices could go up again by 75 centavos per liter in September.

DOE monitoring showed that the benchmark Dubai crude prices have continued to rise in August averaging $27.66 per barrel, up 94 cents from $26.72 in July. .



LOCAL oil prices soar as crude oil prices continue to rise in the world market.

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

Cebu Pac may resume Clark flights

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOKONGWEI-OWNED Cebu Pacific Air might resume its Cebu-Clark flights following the government's plan to develop the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) into an alternative international gateway.

Peggy Very, Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning and external affairs, said in an interview that recent developments in the DMIA prompted the flag carrier to "study" the possibility of going back to Clark.

"We're studying it. Clark authorities have gotten in touch with us. If there's traffic demand and if there's international traffic in Clark, maybe we'll go back. There's nothing concrete yet but there's an openness (to the idea) of going back to Clark," she told reporters.

The flag carrier started servicing the Cebu-Clark route on Oct. 26, 2001, but stopped in December last year due to low passenger volumes.

She said Cebu Pacific management would be looking at how the operations of some international airlines at the DMIA would affect current traffic levels before making a decision.

The government had long planned to develop Clark into an alternative international airport, to ease congestion at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Korean carrier Asiana Airlines Inc., on the other hand, will start servicing the Seoul-Clark route on Sept. 28.

Transportation Assistant Secretary Robert Castanares said in a statement that the government was also aiming to serve Philippines-bound overseas Filipino workers through Seoul with the service from Asiana.

The government also plans to convince Middle East flag carriers to transfer their operations to the DMIA.

"What we want is for international carriers to move there. We'll also be talking to Asiana. But we're open to going back to Clark," Vera said.

Cebu Pacific said in its medium-term plan to be submitted to parent firm JG Summit Holdings Inc. later this month that it would position the flag carrier as a Cebu operator, with more flights going out of Cebu to international destinations.

The flag carrier would be beefing up its fleet within the year, as it negotiates for the lease of another Boeing 757 to be used for regional flights.

"We are going to grow our B757 fleet. We're now negotiating for a fourth airplane," Vera said.

In a related development, domestic tourism buoyed Cebu Pacific's passenger volumes, minimizing the impact of the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) that adversely affected the aviation industry, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

While revenues dipped during the height of the SARS scare in April and May, Vera said load factors were quite good on the domestic side as Filipino vacationers opted to travel within the country instead of going abroad.

Neri asks Filipinos to save more money

By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri yesterday called on Filipinos to save more to help perk up the sluggish domestic economy.

"If our savings rate does not improve, our growth cannot take off," Neri warned.

Neri noted that the Philippines has one of the lowest savings rates in the region of 24.7 percent. Thailand's savings rate stands at 30.5 percent; China, 38.7 percent; Malaysia, 41.8 percent and Singapore, 44.2 percent.

The chief economic planner attributed the low savings rate to burgeoning population, the low return offered by banks to depositors and minimal investment opportunities.

Neri added that generally, Filipinos have not developed a savings culture. He, however, said that it was time to encourage Filipinos to save more to help push the economy forward.

Neri also said that the government also needed to attract more investments.

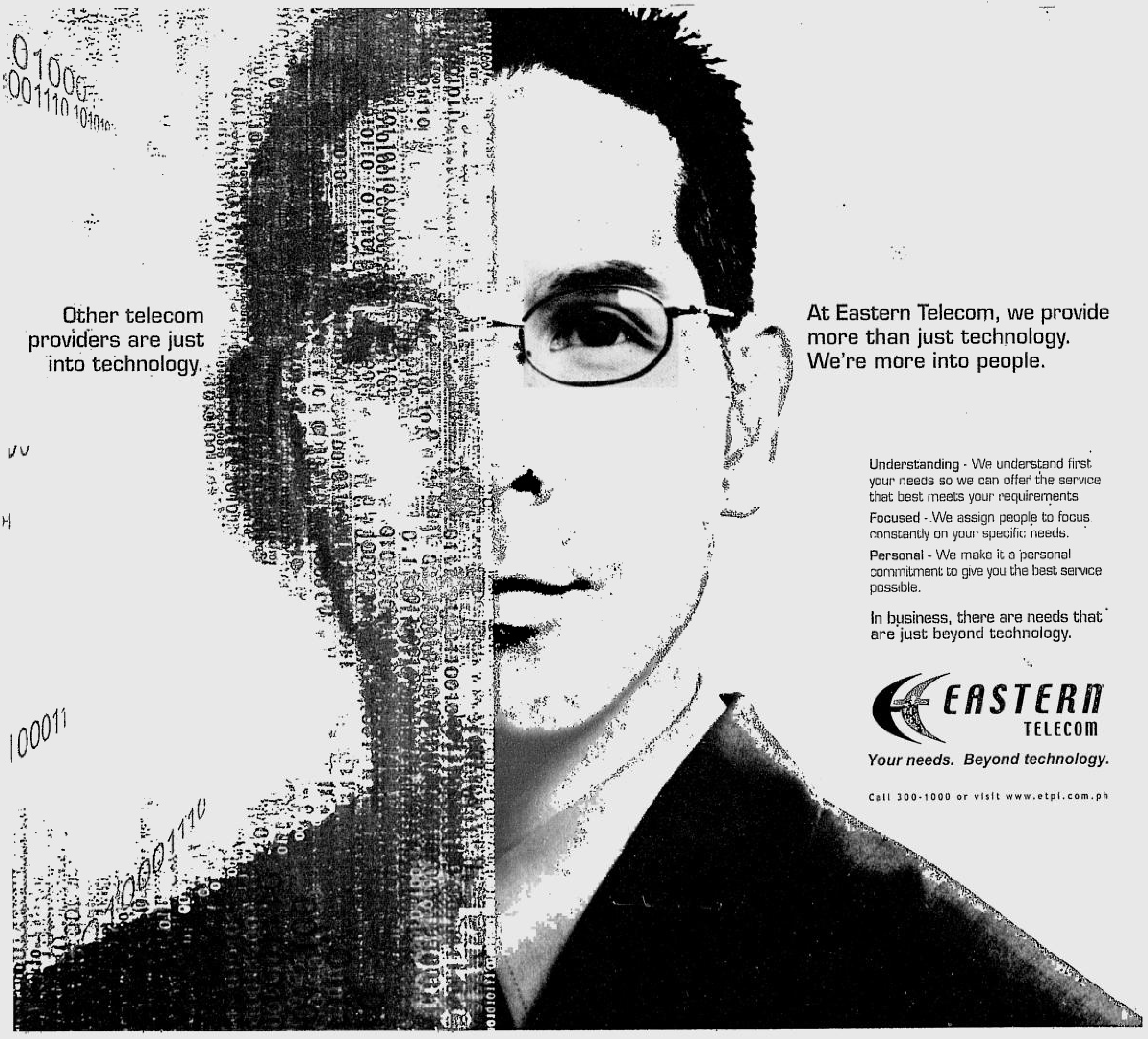
The Philippines has one of the lowest investment-to-GDP ratios at 19.3 percent, compared to China's 38.5 percent, Korea's 26.1 percent, Malaysia's 24.4 percent and Thailand's 23.8 percent.

Neri lamented that the 2002 investment to GDP ratio of the Philippines remained below the pre-Asian crisis levels.

"Improving the investment-to-GDP ratio requires addressing the concerns of investors such as political instability, poor infrastructure, corruption and slow dispensation of justice," Neri said.

The domestic economy grew at a slower-than-expected pace of 3.2 percent in the second quarter due to several factors such as the adverse effect of the El Niño weather phenomenon, the US-Iraq war, the outbreak of the killer virus SARS as well as the government's belt-tightening measures.

While the services sector expanded, weaker industry and farm output tempered overall performance compared to the 4.1 percent growth in gross domestic product in the same period last year and the 4.5 percent growth in the first quarter.



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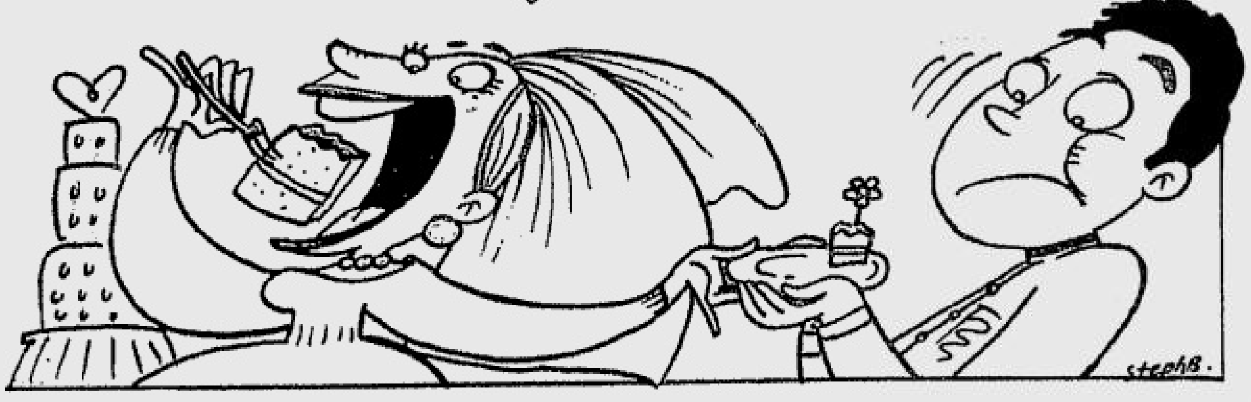

People don't have as much motivation to keep their weight under control because they are no longer in the market looking for a partner

Why saying 'I do' can mean gaining weight

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

RESEARCH from the University of Minnesota confirms what many married people know from experience—marriage can make you fat.

So how do slim and trim single people become rounder five to 10 years after they get married? Head researcher Robert Jeffrey concluded that the weight gain was partly due to a shared environment of too much calorie-rich food and not enough exercise. "Marital synchrony" is what Cornel University sociologist Jeffrey Sobal calls marital weight gain pattern. Psychologists say there are also underlying sexual issues.

No longer 'in the market'

The basic reason is people don't have as much motivation and incentive to keep their weight under control because they are no longer "in the market" looking for a partner.

The reality is many single people are not really committed to a lifestyle of health and fitness and the only reason they work out and maintain their weight is to be able to attract the opposite sex. Once the ink on the marriage contract dries up, this motivation vanishes and they relax the control they have on their weight and appearance.

So be careful. Your slim and sexy girlfriend or boyfriend will most likely not remain that way after you get married.

In their book, "Weight, Sex, & Marriage", authors Barbara Stuart Jacobson and Richard Stuart write, "Courtship is the time of maximum human deception. Never do we work as hard to present ourselves in a positive light."

Talk about deceptive advertising. Once the marriage vows are exchanged, anything can happen. Actually, a ballooning spouse may be the least of your problems. Some serious character defects are only obvious after you live with a person for some length of time.

Watch what happens, though, when people have to become "marketable" again. I have seen many men and women slim down and regain their youthful looks after they get separated. The change is sometimes so dramatic that they look like the younger brother or sister of their former selves. It makes you wonder why they couldn't look that good when they were still with their ex-husband or wife.

Jacobson and Stuart write about a man who quickly became overweight after he got married. He eventually separated from his wife for other reasons. When the wife saw her ex-husband a few months later, he was slim again. She asked him why he had lost weight and he answered it was because he was back in the market again. The woman felt cheated because he was obviously capable of keeping his weight under control but he had no desire to do so while he was married to her.

There is no doubt pregnancy can take its toll on a woman's figure. However, many women take pregnancy as a license to eat not just for two but for a whole army. After all, they have the ring on their finger and a bun in the oven, so why should they hold back? Thus, they end up gaining far more than the 25-30 lbs, the healthy weight allotted for a normal pregnancy. Their husbands can grow "pregnant" bellies of their own if they keep their wives company and eat just as much.

Way to a man's heart

In an effort to please her husband and prove to her mother-in-law she is capable of taking care of the beloved son, many a young wife has slaved away in the kitchen cooking up elaborate meals. The more the husband wolfs down the food and the more he praises her for her cooking, the more she accommodates him by cooking even more delicious food. The result? Both of them gain weight.

Wives can intentionally or unintentionally lay a guilt trip on husbands who don't really want to eat much. The unspoken threat is "I worked all day to prepare this for you. You better darn well have second and third servings to show your appreciation."

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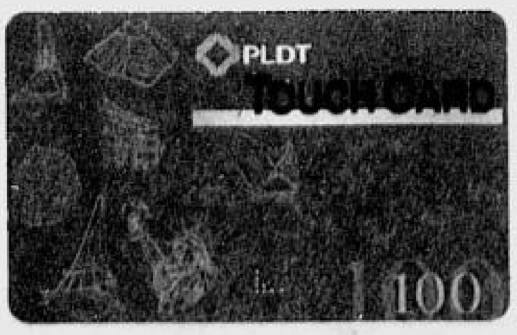

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MARY Lou Lovina with beautiful couple Chiky and Junior Prieto

MARY'S husband Leo Prieto with Ambassador Isabel Wilson and Ray Alejandro

PEARL Doromal with Edith Tiempo and world-class beauty Gemma Cruz Araneta

MARY with her former daughter-in-law Nini Licaros

GRANDDAUGHTERS Marta and Macky Lovina enjoying "No Regrets"

A perfect book launch and a lush luau

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on **Kodak Max**

BOOK lovers excitedly flocked to PowerBooks in Makati to attend the launch of "No Regrets," written by dazzling lady of substance and style **Mary Prieto**. There was a continuous stream of fans and friends of Mary to the event; they formed a long line to the desk where she autographed copies of the book. The books sold like Dunkin Donuts. The signing took more than two hours, so when Mary complained her hand had cramped, she promised to take the books home and sign them.

The affair saw hordes of Mary's female pals from the chi-chi set. But a few brave men were there, such as Fr. **Pat Lim, Rafael Hechanova, Bienvenido Tan III, Rich Chavez, Ben Farrales**, Mary's two sons, **Junior and Mikey; Danny Dolor, Chukri Prieto** and **Leo Prieto Sr.**

The women included **Josie Lichauco, Chari Lao Bagatsing, Criselda Lontok, Noni Illusorio, Bessie Buencamino, Renee Francisco, Pearly Doromal, Baby Caparas, Lily Orendain, Vicky Ruiz, Techie Velasquez, Bea Tan** and Mary's gang from Friends of the PGH.

The brilliant **Chitang Guerrero Nakpil** delivered a few remarks, as did **Karina Bolasco** of Anvil Publishing and **Maximo Lichauco** of PowerBooks.

The beautiful **Nelly Gonzalez**, the elegant **Loleng Panlilio** and super-friend of the Filipinos, Ambassador **Milena Ramirez**, reminisced on the good ol' days with **Chiky** and **Tessie Prieto**.

Sonia Roco arrived a little late, while **Vicky Quirino Delgado** was beautiful as always, escorted by her super handsome young grandson.

Vibrant **Lydia Castillo**, the food guru, breezed in with her sister **Zeny** and **Toni Gregory**.

The Martha's Vineyard groupies chit-chatted while nibbling sandwiches and drinking afternoon tea. They included **Helen Tan, Cecille Oppen**, pretty-pretty **Violet Rotja, Ditas Lerma, Judah Liu**, and body-beautiful **Maritess Pineda**, who dashed in late-ish but just in time to be with her friends, *palanggas*.

Trining Corominas looked good in her eye-catching green dress while **Nenita Allen** and **Aurora Lebrun** had a blast exchanging jokes.

As for me, I finished the book and enjoyed it. It was a fabulous launch, but Mary was not satisfied. She said she was upset because the messenger service fouled up and failed to deliver many invitations.

"Oh, well, nothing is perfect," said Mary, who to many is perfection personified.

LUSH
www.lush.com.ph

LUSH babe Claudine Trillo-Webb

CARMINA Javier, top gal of Stores Specialists Inc.

Luau

Emphasis, the popular and chic high-end salon at Rockwell, hosted the first ever Lush Luau, which launched the popular UK brand's newest hair care range.

Emphasis was transformed into a scene straight out of the lush Hawaiian islands, with tons of flowers hanging from the ceilings and with surfboards giving that "beach feel." The fine setting was conjured by Store Specialists Inc., led by its young and brilliant EVP, **Anton Huang**, and visual merchandiser **Sunday Alcaraz.**

Leonie Davies, Lush's top hair expert, jetted in from England to make sure all the guests were given personalized treatments, which included consultations and a briefing on Lush's delicious-smelling shampoo, conditioner solids and liquids, and deep-conditioning formulas.

Judging from the comments of the guests, the products that stand to become popular among Filipinos are New, Rehab, Rethread and American Dream. Everyone agreed the hair conditioners were delicious-smelling.

Celebrities **Angel Jacob** and **Claudine Trillo** wasted no time in trying out the new products, which Davies said had all been personalized to suit individual hair types.

I chatted with a businessman who had a beautiful wife. "What is your idea of beauty?" I asked him. "Okay," he replied, "beauty is what a woman has when she looks the same after washing her face. Beauty is also when a woman's face, figure and voice make you instantly stop, look and listen!"

See, I told you he knew what beauty was all about.

Naturellement, SSI's rah-rah movers were there in full force, such as the brilliant marketing and communications manager **Malu Francisco** and marketing assistant **Carmina Javier**. Lady of decorum ahd Lush's brand manager **Pris Estacio** and brand assistant **Ida Nones** made sure everyone enjoyed the Lushious spa experience and also the food, prepared superbly by **Gaita Fores**.

Emphasis' Gang of 3—**Teng Roma, Margie Olives** and **Mylene Santos**—made sure that the salon applied consistently its trademark efficiency and professionalism all throughout the affair.

JETTING into town is Leonie Davies, international trainer for Lush, here with Angel Jacob and Stores Specialists Inc.'s Anton Huang

People-spotting

At least a thousand Saturday-nightouters swept the Greenbelt 2 and 3 recently for that big, last blast of the week that had the cash registers ringing till closing time.

Cruising with my gang from Nuvo to Resto 12, then back to Nuvo, we cut through a fog of smoke outside the restaurants and clubs. I was absolutely amazed at the hordes of smokers around. From inside the establishments, people emptied out into the promenade to get their regular nicotine fix!

Coming from a two-week stay in Singapore was classy **Kathy de Guzman**, looking wow in her black-and-white pop-art, figure-hugging Giorgio Armani knit. She was with Swiss-German **Reto Guntli** and good-looking Brazilian **Aji**, who are photographers for Vogue, Architectural Digest, Bazaar and Elle Decor.

Kathy said she was showing them around the better homes, resort spots and hotels in the country which the duo could photograph for foreign publications, *palanggas*.

Businessman **Raul Manzano, Elbert Cuenca** of Resto 12, **Robbie Francisco** of Araki, handsome **JR Bautista** of Richmonde Hotel and *moi* made sure the visitors got a piece of the action that night.

I hopped over to the super-popular sweet-tooth paradise, Bizu Patisserie. Outside, they had telescopes of all sizes that allowed patrons and passersby to look at the phenomenal happening of Planet Mars coming really close to Earth. I was superbly instructed by Bizu's hot man, **Arthur T. Tanco Jr.**, on how to use the telescope. He even explained to me the background of Mars, saying that it was possible there was life on the planet thousands of years ago.

It was awesome looking at this planet that might even have a south pole, among other things. Arthur said that one day humans might even move there.

At Nuvo, the Badminton Gang was there in full-feathered ball force. **Maricris Zobel, Carol Masibay, Doodie Tuason, Rosanna Fores**, a slimmer and attractive **Lizzette Banzon Cojuangco**, and several others were all getting ready to move to the Conservatory at the Peninsula where they were going to rock the night to the sounds of Hyperbeat.

KARINA Bolasco from Anvil Publishing and the lady with no regrets, Mary Prieto

PALS from way back, Mary and Josine Elizalde

ALL in the famille: Msgr. Pat Lim with sister Laling

MAXIMO Licauco, manager of PowerBooks, gets his autograph from Mary Prieto.

BEAUTEOUS book lovers Loleng Panlilio and Letty vda. de Santos

VICKY Quirino Delgado with Lina Esquinel and Terry Andaya

Sigalit Djemal was back in Cosmo Manille after two months of vacation in Israel and other parts of the world. Sigalit's cooking is just f-a-b-u-l-o-u-s. If you are one of the lucky ones who have had dinner at her home, then you must know that she prepares the very best Middle Eastern meal this side of heaven.

Next stop for us was—hey! They were packing them in again like the good-old Giraffe days. Dream Bar had become a dream come true. The place was rocking wild with DJ **Manolet Dario**'s fab sounds. If that wasn't enough, Mr. Pure Energy himself, **Gary Valenciano**, joined the percussionist in the performance and brought the house down.

Sultry concert queen **Pops Fernandez** was there with her best pal, Philippine Tatler editor **Anton San Diego**; the super-nice wife of Gary V, **Angeli V**; eye-catcher **Andrea Bautista** with steady escort, handsome **Diether Ocampo**; and hot, hot model, handsome **Troy Webb**.

Having a great time inside were **Celine Lopez** with eligible good-looking bachelor **Ricky Delgado**.

Smart **Chut Cuerva** was back from Ibiza. **David Jacobs** went solo (where was Pinky Webb?). Also spotted were **Angelique Villaraza** and the man behind Milkwear, **Joel Ong; Tim Yap** with his pal **JM Rodriguez**; and **Dondi** and *el guapo* **Louis Terry**. Dream's hotshot **Ito Feliciano** and music consultant **Eric Maniquis** were beaming with pride over the success of their dream.

Our last stop was, as always, V, the club house of the late-late owls. It was derriere to derriere, sardine-style.

Surprise, surprise, there they were, both beautiful faces. She's separated with a child; he's separated with a child: two people super-compatible with each other and behaving like they were soo in love, oblivious to the rest of the world.

Moi was all ears chatting with international businessman **Henry Muzzarrelli**. He talked about his bar at the swinging Dusit Hotel and his failed love life. "In a way, it was partly my fault, too," he said.

I noticed this businessman who was cozy-cozy with a foreign beauty, whose friend told *moi*, "In all the years that he has been married, he has never stopped being romantic. If his wife ever finds out, he's a dead duck."

By this time it was 5:30 a.m., and I was out of there. I headed straight to bed into the arms of Morpheus, the ancient god of sleep. Ah, my kingdom for a good night's rest.

THE GANG of Seventeen. Maya Calica, Cecille Jusi, Leonie Davies, Tata Mapa and Monica Baretto

HAPPY Lush girls. Cecille Jusi and Ida Nones

LUSH-CIOUS babes. Joyce Oreña of Star and Romina Urra of Chalk

TURNING Lush. Bebeth Timbol and Cathy Azanza

Psychic perception or hallucination?

ONE of the most common questions people ask me is: "How do I know if what I see or hear that others do not see or hear is real or just a product of my imagination?"

Remember the 9-year-old boy in the movie, "The Sixth Sense?" He saw dead people everywhere he went. Well, there are real people here in the Philippines who have this ability or power. Only they do not consider it to be a gift but a curse. Often, such people ask me if there is a way to stop them from seeing ghosts.

To them it is a burden. They think they are going crazy. They are afraid to talk about their ability for fear they may be regarded as insane.

Because orthodox science and religion say there is no such thing as a ghost, to see one is considered to be mere hallucination. But there is a big difference between hallucination and real psychic perception.

The most fundamental difference is this: Hallucination is a mental illness; what is seen is not real. Psychic perception is a product of a normal mind; what is perceived is real and can be verified independently.

Sometimes, however, the distinction becomes blurred and that's where the problem begins. Without objective verification, or somebody else independently confirming what one is seeing or hearing, it is not always possible to tell whether one is hallucinating and going out of his mind, or is merely being psychic.

Pathological or psychiatric?

There is one particular psychological problem which has been brought to my attention which can invariably be regarded as pathological or psychiatric when it appears. This is the case where the patient complains of neighbors hearing every thought he has and always talking about him and knowing his activities.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

In the mind of the patient, no secret can be kept from such neighbors. He wonders how "they" know what he is doing alone in the privacy of his own room.

About five separate cases have been brought to my attention by relatives because the latter believe those people must be psychic. The first time somebody brought to me such a problem, I also thought the person was psychic, until I started asking very detailed questions on when, how and what was being said. Then all logic broke down. Certain paranoid tendencies began to emerge.

Often, these people insist in talking only to me, not to a psychiatrist, because they believe it is only I who can understand them. They feel neighbors are using telepathy on them. In all these cases, I asked the relatives to refer the patient to a competent psychiatrist, because this is clearly not within my field of expertise. I deal with normal people with paranormal experiences, not with pathological persons with seemingly paranormal experiences.

Without objective verification, it is not always possible to tell whether one is going out of his mind or is merely being psychic

Psychic perception is a normal faculty of our inner senses. Hallucination or paranoia is a mental aberration or illness. Since Western psychiatry does not have any way of making a distinction between the two, then psychiatrists and parapsychologists should help one another in dealing with patients with this problem. Already, several cases of strange symptoms caused by spirit possession have been referred to me by their doctors who cannot find any medical explanation for them. And we have been able to help these patients.

Note: Because of the continuing invasion of a computer virus, we had to delete incoming e-mail last week. So please understand if we do not respond to recent e-mail.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8107245/8926806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Why saying 'I do' can mean gaining weight

From page C1

Jacobson and Stuart say that due to the close proximity of food and boredom of being stuck at home, being a housewife is the most fattening job in the world.

Women who previously "controlled" their appetites in front of their boyfriends let loose after marriage and match their husbands bite for bite. Big mistake. Men can eat more without gaining as much weight because of their bigger size and muscle mass. Unless you are as big as your husband or you have a super-fast metabolism, there is no way you can eat as much as him and expect to stay slim.

Women are born people-pleasers. Edward Abramson, author of "To Have and To Hold," writes that women relinquish the dietary independence they had when single to accommodate first their husband's food preferences and later their children's. If the husband has healthy eating habits, well and good. But if he likes unhealthy high-calorie food, which is more often the case, she will end up eating the same way.

'Garbage disposal'

Many mothers cannot stand seeing kids' leftover food because they have been taught as children that wasting food is bad. However, they do not realize how many extra calories they consume by being the family's unofficial "garbage disposal."

A wife may "lovingly" stuff food down her husband's throat because she subconsciously wants to turn him from a "hunk" into a "chunk" so he isn't as attractive anymore to the opposite sex.

Unfortunately, ladies, in our society, a man's worth and attractiveness is not based so much on his looks as on his achievements and how much money he has in the bank. So an overweight out-of-shape man can still attract more than his share of attention from the opposite sex as long as he is loaded.

If this is your intention, it's more effective to spend all his money on shopping so you'll look fabulous and he'll be broke.

Insecurities

Men and women can consciously or unconsciously make themselves gain weight because this reduces the insecurities of their mates. In a 1993 study, 35 percent of the participants said that being overweight made their spouses less jealous, and they felt their weight gain also prevented them from thinking about having an affair. Years ago, a client confessed to me she did not want to lose weight because being overweight was her chastity belt.

Jacobson and Stuart write about a married woman who said, "I know it sounds dumb, but I think one of the reasons I overeat is to be sure I'm not attractive to other men. When I am near my low weight, I get a lot of male attention, and I love it!... Then I feel guilty about my flirtations, and I start eating again."

Some men and women lose interest in sex when home and work responsibilities start piling up. Others never really enjoyed sex and only used it as "bait" to attract a partner. While others may have repressed feelings of hurt and anger toward their spouse, making sex the last activity they want to do with them.

According to marriage therapists Melissa and Louis McBurney, "It is not rare for weight gain to provide 'protection' from sexual involvement when that is threatening to a person. The 'threat' can be the fear of possible conception, discomfort during intercourse or physical closeness in an unhappy relationship."

Other psychological issues

The marriage counselors of Marriage and Romance.com say that another reason people gain weight after they get married is because "they need to feel loved despite their being overweight—to have their mate prove that love is more than skin deep."

Still another reason is that "some people feel they don't really deserve to be happy; that they must counterbalance their joy with a problem or loss. The weight gain may cause the relationship to end or bring other kinds of problems to their lives, which relieves their feelings of guilt over their 'undeserved' happiness."

In a 1987 study, Stuart found that the average woman gains 24.7 lbs in 13 years while the average man puts on 19.2 lbs. He discovered that happily married women only gain 13.4 lbs while unhappily married women gain the most—42.6 lbs in the same period. This is not surprising since several studies have found that people turn to food as a substitute for unfulfilled sexual or emotional needs in a marriage. I remember one woman who was in an unhappy relationship and told me that food was her only pleasure left in life.

What happens when a man or woman stays slim but the partner doesn't? Jacobson told Jim Kershner of The Spokesman Review, "I've talked to men and women who have maintained their weight while they watch their partners get heavier and heavier. What I hear most often is not anger or resentment, but they're sad. They're sad because they feel less sexually attracted to their partners. They certainly don't want that feeling, but it's hard to force it."

In other words, when your partner says, "I love you no matter what weight you are," they mean it but it doesn't always mean they still find you as physically attractive as when you were dating.

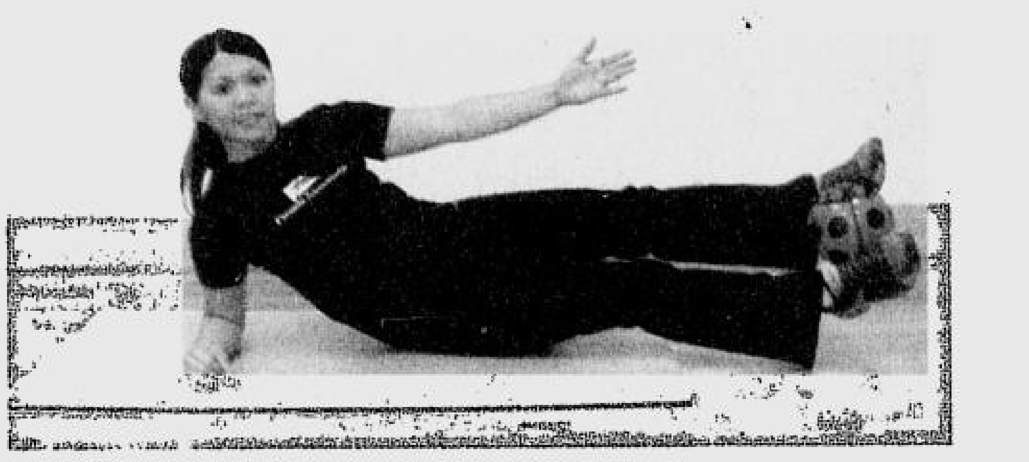
Jacobson further told Kershner that whether people like it or not, physical attractiveness plays a huge role in courtship and weight is one of the most important issues in physical attractiveness. "In studies where men and women rank what is most important in a mate, physical appearance is always in the top three."

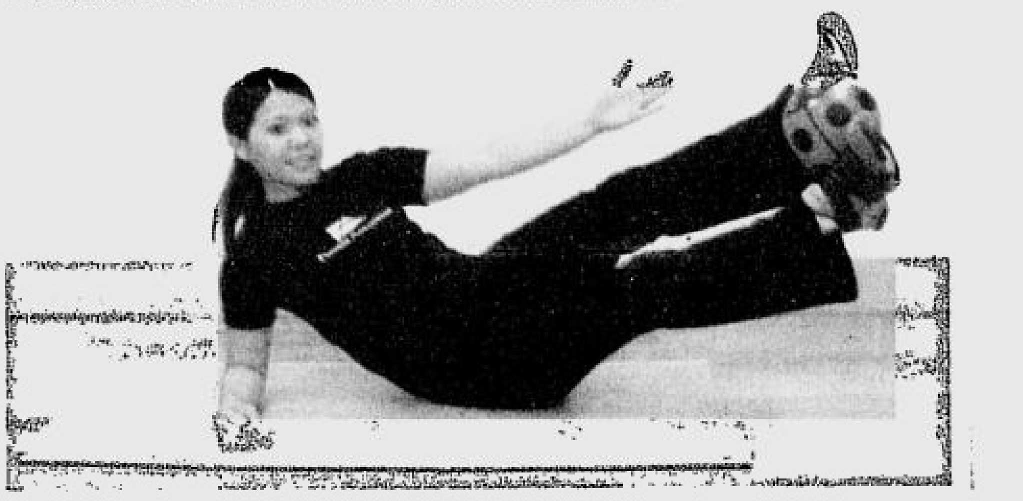
Next week: What to do about marital weight gain

For past articles, exercises and suggestions for future columns, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Inner thigh and oblique lift





THIS Pilates-inspired exercise strengthens inner thighs and obliques (muscles that criss-cross your waist).

Equipment:

Exercise mat and mini ball (you can use any small plastic or rubber ball you have at home).

Exercise technique:

1. Lie sideways with your elbow directly under your shoulder. Place the ball between your ankles.
2. Straighten your legs and bring them slightly forward. Gently flip your lower body backward so you are facing the ceiling at an oblique angle. Raise your other arm to shoulder level for balance.
3. Exhale as you lift your legs; inhale as you lower them down.

Performance tips

1. The mini ball helps you keep your legs together.
2. Pull up tall from the shoulders. Do not allow your shoulders to sag downward toward the mat.
3. Tighten up muscles of the trunk and legs before you attempt to lift the legs off the mat.
4. Start and finish the exercise with the legs already lifted a few inches off the floor.
5. This is an advanced exercise. Do not do it if you have lower back problems.

Repetitions:

Do 5-10 repetitions on each side.

Bulacan celebrates its vibrant arts and culture

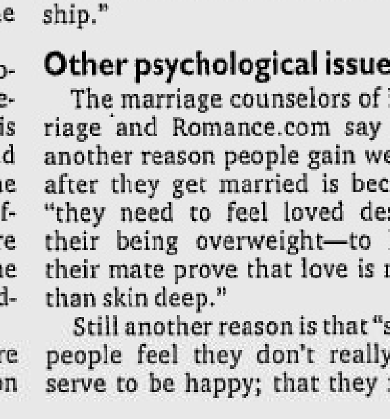
BULAKEÑOS who are now movers and shakers in the national scene have banded together to hold "Sining Bulacan," a culture and arts festival from Sept. 8 to 15 at Barasoain Museum and Innercourt in Malolos City.

The activities are well-rounded and varied enough to give visitors and participants a good sampling of everything interesting about Bulacan and the artists and prominent sons of the province.

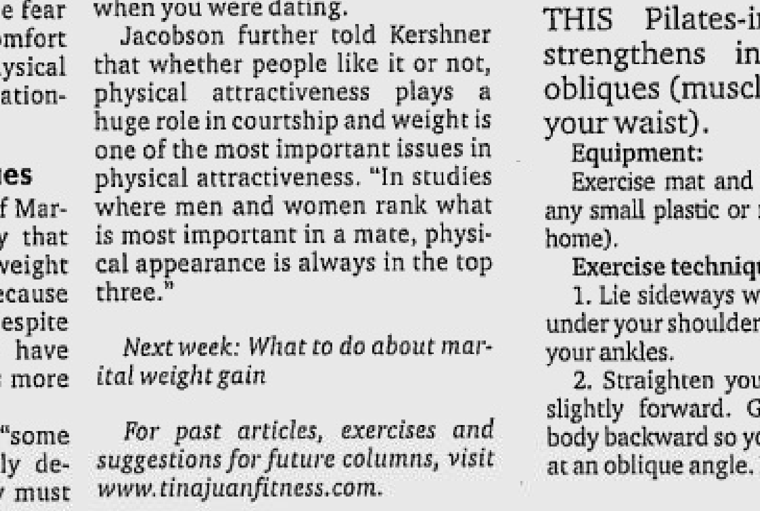
A Food and Folk Arts Festival runs from Sept. 11 to 15 featuring heritage and contemporary food and folk arts products of Bulacan. The products will be exhibited and sold at booths in the Barasoain Church Inner Court.

An art exhibit will run from Sept. 11 to 15, featuring the works of National Artist Jose Joya and best-selling painter Malang, both Bulakeños. They will be joined by 30 other artists, including Al Perez, Phillip Victor, Cenon Rivera, Fil Delacruz, Jose Marasigan.

Bulacan has a large community of artists such as Guillermo Tolentino, Malang, Philip Victor, Al Perez (visual arts); National Artist Virgilio Almario and Nicanor Tiongson (literature); Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio, Dolphy, Joey de Leon, Timmy Cruz, Bert "Tawa" Marcelo and "Tia Dely" (drama); and Nicanor Abelardo, Francisco Santiago, Regalado Jose, Dalisay Aldaba, Ernani Cuenca, Regine Velasquez, Rey Valera and Isay Alvarez-Seña (music).



NATIONAL Artist for Music Antonino Buenaventura



THE DANGAL ng Bulacan Foundation members: (seated, from left) Remedios Macalincag and Mila Enriquez; (standing) Dez Bautista, Dr. Isabel Lopez Nazal and Dr. Jaime C. Laya

Other artists are Ricardo and Alice Reyes, and Shirley Halili Cruz (dance); and Nick Lizaso and Manuel de Leon (film).

Bulacan has also produced Mila Enriquez in the culinary arts and Castor Santiago in gardening and landscaping.

A Literary Arts Forum will be held on Sept. 13. Among the speakers are writer-director Floy Quintos, National Artist Virgilio Almario and Karina Bolasco.

A Visual Arts Forum will also be held on Sept. 13. Among the speakers are critic Cid Reyes, Genesis Gallery owner Araceli Salas and sculptor Ramon Orlina.

Organizer of the festival is the Dangal ng Bulacan Foundation, Inc. which is composed of Dangal ng Lipi awardees and other leading Bulakeños. It hopes to encourage Bulakeños to contribute their time, talent and resources for the progress of Bulacan.

It is composed of Deogracias Vistan, chair; Alfredo Antonio, vice chair; Remedios Macalincag, president and CEO; Renato Simbulan, secretary; Estelita Aguirre, treasurer; and Fortunato de la Peña, Jaime Laya, Antonio Bautista, Jose Hernandez Jr., Isabel Lopez-Nazal, Irineo Villangca.

Tribute to Buenaventura

The festival will also pay tribute to National Artist for Music Antonino Buenaventura.

An exhibit titled "Isang Pagtatanghal sa Buhay at Sining ni Maestro Toning," will open today at the F. Aquino Hall, Sentro ng Sining at Kultura Building (SSKB) in Malolos City.

Bulacan musicians will pay homage to the master in "Sa Dakong Silangan: A Brass Band Festival," to be participated in by 10 bands from the different cities and municipalities of Bulacan, on Sept. 14, at 3 p.m. at the provincial capitol.

The Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation will present "Maestro Toning," a play on the life and works of the National Artist from Sept. 8 to 15, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the N. Abelardo auditorium, SSKB in Malolos City.

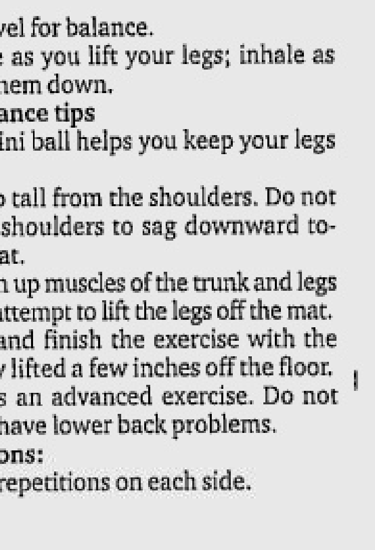
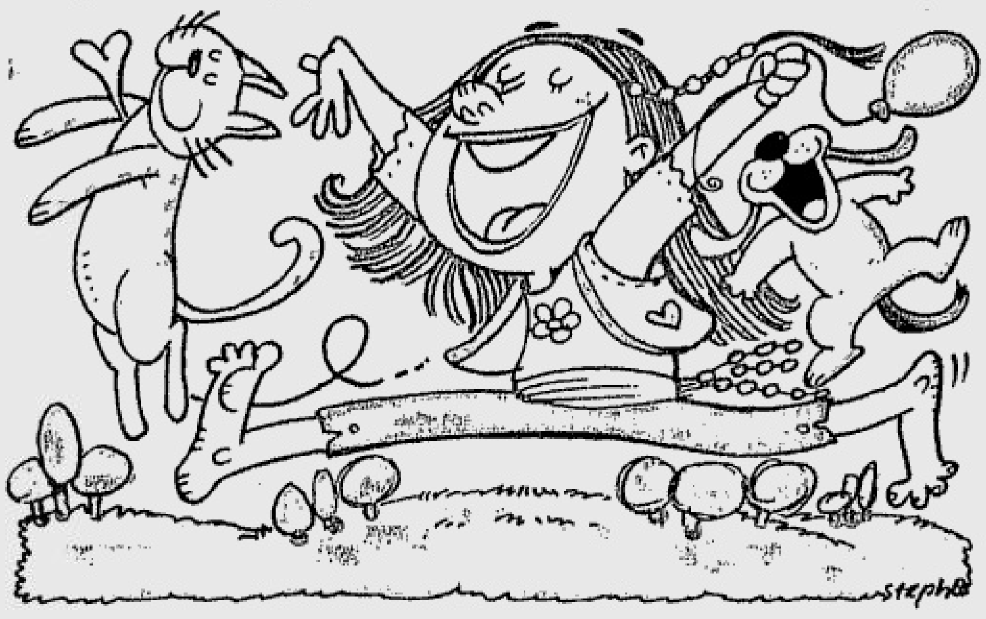


TABLE of Bulacan fare at Dez Bautista's residence

Bulacan Week 2003 is a celebration of arts, culture, history and tradition of the province of Bulacan. Theme is "Pamana ng Kalinangan at Kasaysayan, Pamukaw Sigla sa Maunlad na Kabuhayan."

Bulacan Gov. Josie M. dela Cruz leads the festival.



Live life to the fullest

Replace your destructive patterns with positive ones and allow stress to be a learning experience

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."
— Antoine de Saint-Exupery

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THERE is a new reality in our midst—technology and its drastic influence on the quality of our lives. Because of many radical changes, a dramatic effect on our way of life is inevitable. The result? Stress, a factor that has a direct influence on one's health and sense of well-being.

State of hurry

Stress cannot possibly exist without the rush and the hassle of running after time. Akin to a "relentless treadmill from which it is impossible to escape," stress and speed have become inseparable. Under extreme pressure, people can break down either physically where the health suffers, or emotionally, where marriages and relationships break from the strain. Surprisingly, in some cases, people stop their destructive patterns and replace them with positive ones, thereby allowing stress to be a learning experience.

Feeling lost

Certain folks speak of having a personal crisis in which they have lost their way and must, once again, find their direction. According to psychotherapists, if you feel you are in a crisis, you will experience the following:

- Bouts of "spacing-out," moments of suspended animation when in the midst of noise and activity, you are tuned into another channel and have that faraway look.
- Erratic behavior—one minute you are happy and bubbly, the next low and glum, a minute later, you are angry and hostile.
- Addictions—finding yourself reaching out for a tranquilizer that it becomes a nightly habit, having your night cap and drinking way beyond your limits that you are regularly intoxicated.
- Feelings of emptiness seize you, affecting your zest for life that you find yourself having to pretend or put on a show for others.

Getting help

In an attempt to understand themselves and life better, people seek help. To some, this realization is a natural process. Called midlife crisis, it hits men in their 50s and women in their 40s. It may result from a dramatic experience or serious physical illness. (Examples: A baby borne to a high-powered woman may cause her to question her priorities; a man's sudden loss of job creates a career crisis.)

Spiritual understanding

Indeed, there is a real need for many to find spiritual fulfillment, which may or may not be consciously verbalized or recognized. It is clear, though, the ones who are aware of this driving force embark on a journey of self-discovery much faster than those who are unaware, or worse, refuse to recognize it.

It is explained in a formula: need/pain+awareness=healing, conversely need/pain+indifference/denial=more pain.

Self-help checklist

If it is time to reach a clearer understanding of yourself:

Seek solitude. Create the right kind of atmosphere in order to commune with yourself.

Simplify. Start trimming down. By adopting the attitude of less is more, you can live with fewer wants and desires.

Go on a retreat. Spend time in prayer and Bible study.

Meditate. Stress can be managed properly by meditating regularly.

Relaxation therapy, including:

- Massage, an ancient remedy for aches, has been found to have psychological benefits, easing tension.
- Aromatherapy, a holistic practice using essential aromatic oils in healing, leaves the troubled person in a peaceful frame of mind.

Yoga, based on a series of poses and regular breathing, is a way of life designed to allow a person higher consciousness.

Dance movement therapy aims to help people resolve deep-seated problems by communicating through movement set to music.

Music therapy, known to "tame the beast" in everyone, can stimulate a person to experience joy and tranquility. If you are not inclined to play an instrument, then sing to your heart's content, even if you are out of tune.

Social therapy. Get involved in the community. Volunteer work not just helps the beneficiary but also the benefactor.

Professional help through psychotherapy/counseling releases blocked and negative emotions brought about by a life event such as bereavement, divorce, marital or personal troubles through guided talking sessions .

Don't be a deadwood

All these approaches can be reduced to one line—stop worrying and start living! In the end, all these remedies will not work if you have given up on yourself. The moment you give up, life will stop for you, thereby reducing you to a piece of deadwood floating along wherever the tide takes you.

What to do?

Surrender to the power of God to open up the heavens for blessings.

Believe that blessings are on their way.

Prop yourself up and stop putting yourself down.

Take charge of your life, begin by understanding yourself better and knowing that you are entitled to your personal happiness.

Pick-me-up potion

If you are down, whip up this morning starter.

1 carrot
1 apple
2 celery sticks
1 tsp grated ginger
juice of 1 lime/*dayap*

In a juicer; mix all the ingredients. Drink the potion. Dance to your favorite tune in a circle, in clockwise motion, until you are tired. Then step into the center of the imaginary circle and affirm: "From the center of my heart, I am one with the heart of heaven."

Love and light!

Nestlé Nutren's "Total Wellness: Body, Mind and Spirit" seminar with Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino is now open to the public. Only P400 per person at Nestlé Rockwell Center. Call Cristy at 8842354. Only the first 100 callers will be entertained.

Some facts excerpted from "Guide To Natural Healing" by Geddes & Grosset and recipes from Jane Scrivner's "Water Detox"

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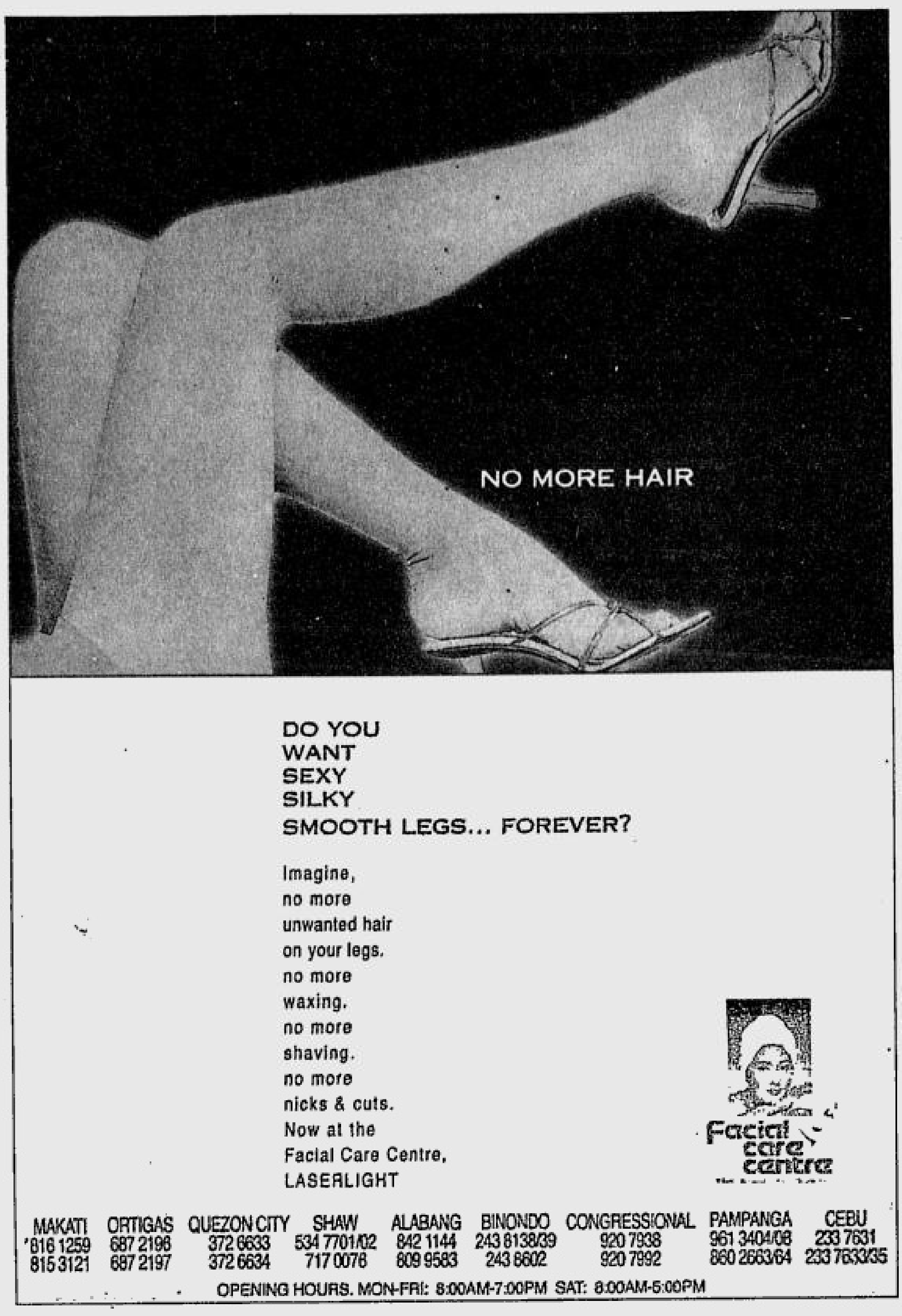

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I am planning of getting MEDICard coverage for my family, but I am concerned on the quality of care given by your doctors, since I've heard that HMOs control cost for medical services. Is it true that HMOs have financial incentives for doctors who limit diagnostic tests or referrals to specialists?

With MEDICard the requests for laboratory tests and referrals to specialists provided by our medical coordinators are guided by one principle, **"WHAT IS DEEMED TO BE MEDICALLY NECESSARY."** They prescribe laboratory tests and refer members to specialists based on what they evaluate to be needed to address the health condition of the member.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Pediatrician **Luz P. Escaño**, Medical Coordinator for Mary Chiles General Hospital in Gastambide St., Sampaloc, Manila, is the caring "Doktora Luz" to MEDICard patients. Doc Luz, is one of the pioneer healthcare providers of MEDICard. She joined the HMO's team of specialists in 1990. She is a graduate of Medicine from Far Eastern University. She took her residency training for her specialization at East Avenue Medical Center. This loving mother to four, enjoys most of her "off clinic" hours spending quality time with her family, often dinning out or watching movies. For all your medical needs at Mary Chiles Hospital, visit the coordinator's clinic, Room 248, Mondays to Saturdays from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Leading the team of doctors at Nueva Ecija Doctors Hospital in Maharlika Hi-way, Cabanatuan City is Medical Coordinator, **Dr. Rolando B. Veneracion.** Dr. Veneracion, fondly called as Doc Rolly, is a 1956 Medicine graduate of the University of the Philippines. He specializes in Internal Medicine and subspecializes in Cardiology. He has more than 40 years of clinical experience; making him one of the most beloved doctors of MEDICard where he joined in 1995. For all your medical needs at the hospital, visit Room 122, Mondays to Saturdays, from 8 AM to 5 PM.

For your needed dental consultations, visit **Dr. Grace de Guia Brozas.** Dr. Brozas, a Dentistry graduate of De Ocampo Memorial College, specializes in the field of Orthodontics and TMJ diseases. She has been practicing her profession for over 19 years now and has been a part of the HMO's dental healthcare provider team since 1996. She is currently the President of the Parañaque Dental Chapter, the President and Zone Chair of the Lions Club and a member of the American Association of Functional Orthodontics. She is also active in community and outreach services. Dr. Brozas holds clinic at the 2/F, Luriell Bldg. II, Simplicio Cruz Comp., Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque. Clinic hours are from Mondays to Saturdays, 9 AM to 6 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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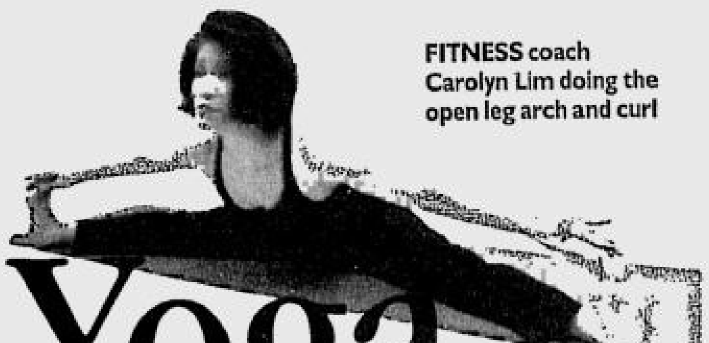
GO TO PAGE A3



FITNESS coach Carolyn Lim doing the open leg arch and curl

Yoga in motion

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Roger Carpio

THE NEXT big thing in the fitness world, predicted to become even more popular than Pilates and yoga, combines the principles of yoga, ballet, tai chi, gymnastics, acupressure and swimming.

But, no, you don't need to gear up for the pool or wear ballet shoes. Any comfy workout getup will do.

Gyrokinesis™ is making a loud noise abroad for its distinct emphasis on exercising both the joints and muscles, thus dramatically increasing strength, flexibility and range of motion.

Most of the exercises today focus mainly on the muscles, usually executed in jarring and abrupt motions that in the long run could cause injuries.

"If the body moves, you need to move your bones, too, not just the muscles. And if the joints are too tight, you can't move freely," says Carolyn T. Lim, a certified Gyrokinesis instructor.

Lim teaches Gyrokinesis at Balanced Body Studio, 7/F Tower F, Renaissance Centre, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. From handling a mere two classes upon her introduction of the exercise over a year ago, Gyrokinesis has slowly but steadily built up a following of many hardcore Filipino fitness buffs.

Today, Lim, a fitness and strength trainer, teaches five Gyrokinesis classes aside from one-on-one Gyrotonic® (Gyrokinesis with machines) sessions and Pilates (also certified).

Fluidity

She says unlike Pilates and yoga, which is a linear form of exercise—roll up, stretch and hold, etc.—Gyrokinesis is a continuous movement through space. Postures are never held in position for a long time. Small wonder, then, that it is often referred to as yoga in motion by many enthusiasts abroad.

Like a graceful dance, Gyrokinesis (from the Greek word "gyro" meaning "spiral"), consists of fluid, nonstop circular movements with breathing patterns that stimulate better circulation, elongating the spine when inhaling and curling it on exhaling.

"It is an exercise that can be adapted to your daily routine. [It] moves fluidly, because in real life that's what we do. We don't move [like robots] with awkward, jerking actions," Lim says.

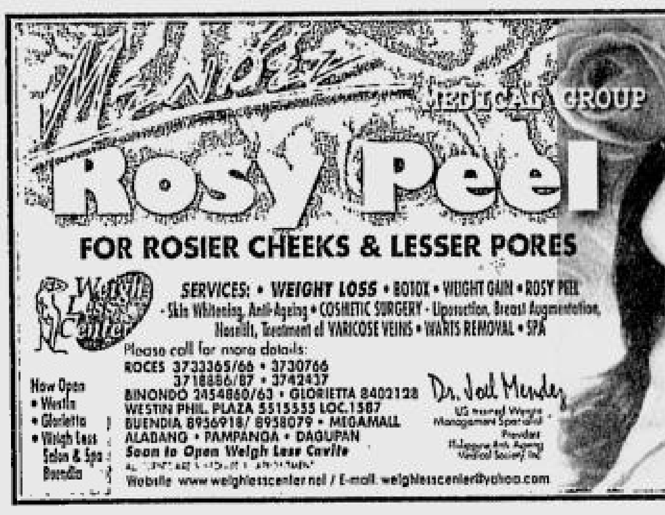
Gyrokinesis loosens the arms, shoulders and chest, working gently on the joints and muscles. Full articulation of the joints is based on seven spinal movements: forward, backward, left side, right side, left twist, right twist and circular.

The more you stretch and rotate, the more the joints loosen, promoting better flexibility. "You can increase your limitations if you keep on working on it," Lim says.

Benefits also include body sculpting, improved posture, increased strength and energy, weight loss for those on a diet, and released chronic stiffness. Anyone can perform the workout regardless of body type, age and fitness level.

"It's not enough that you just do it. You have to feel the exercise. When you're doing a movement, such as when you expand your chest, yawn. Yawn, yawn, yawn! Feel the air in your body as you inhale and exhale," says Lim.

YOGA/D2



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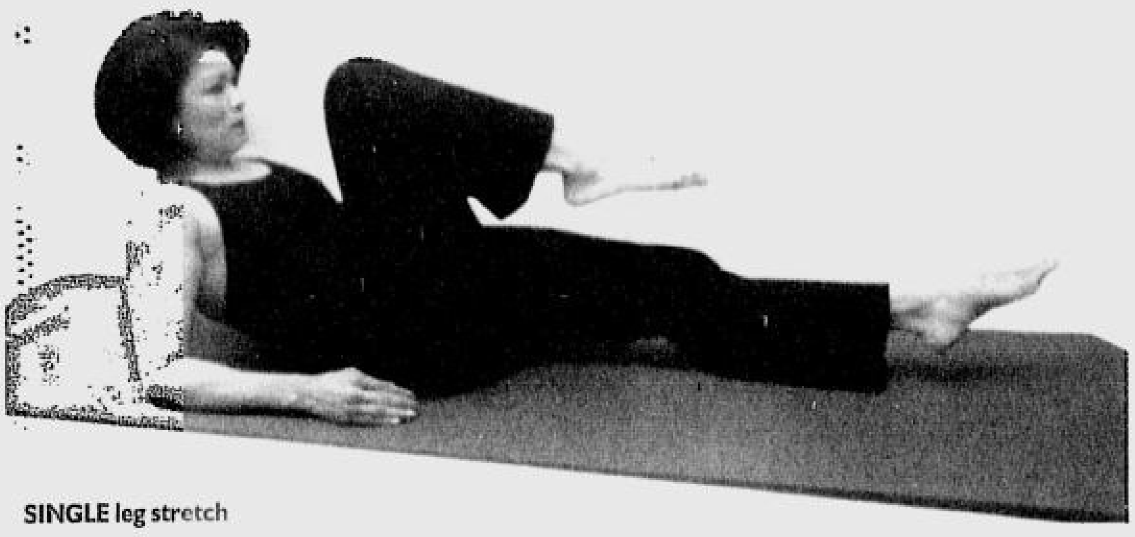
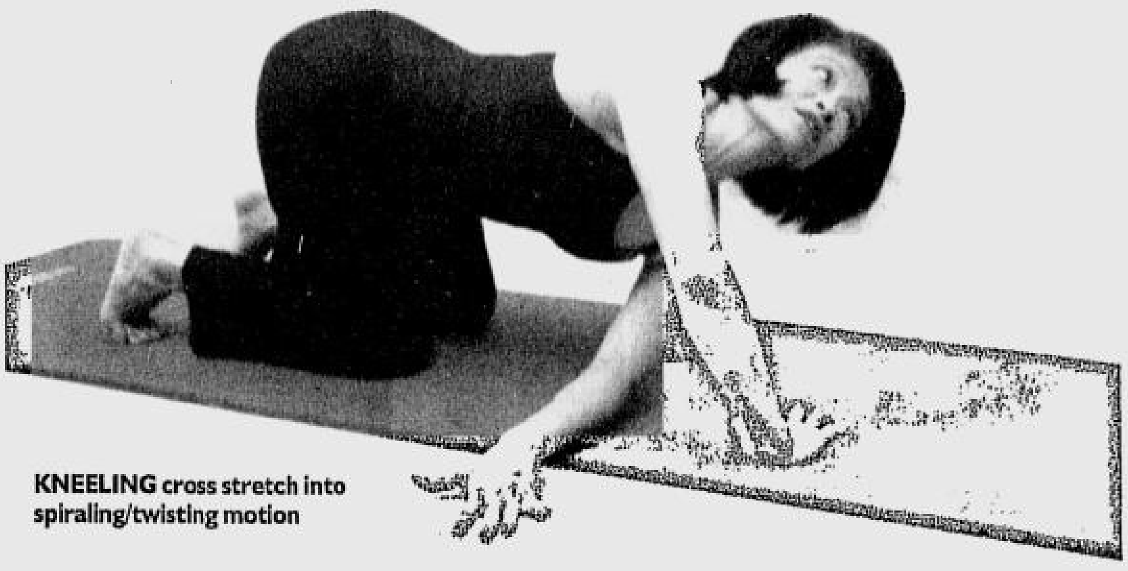


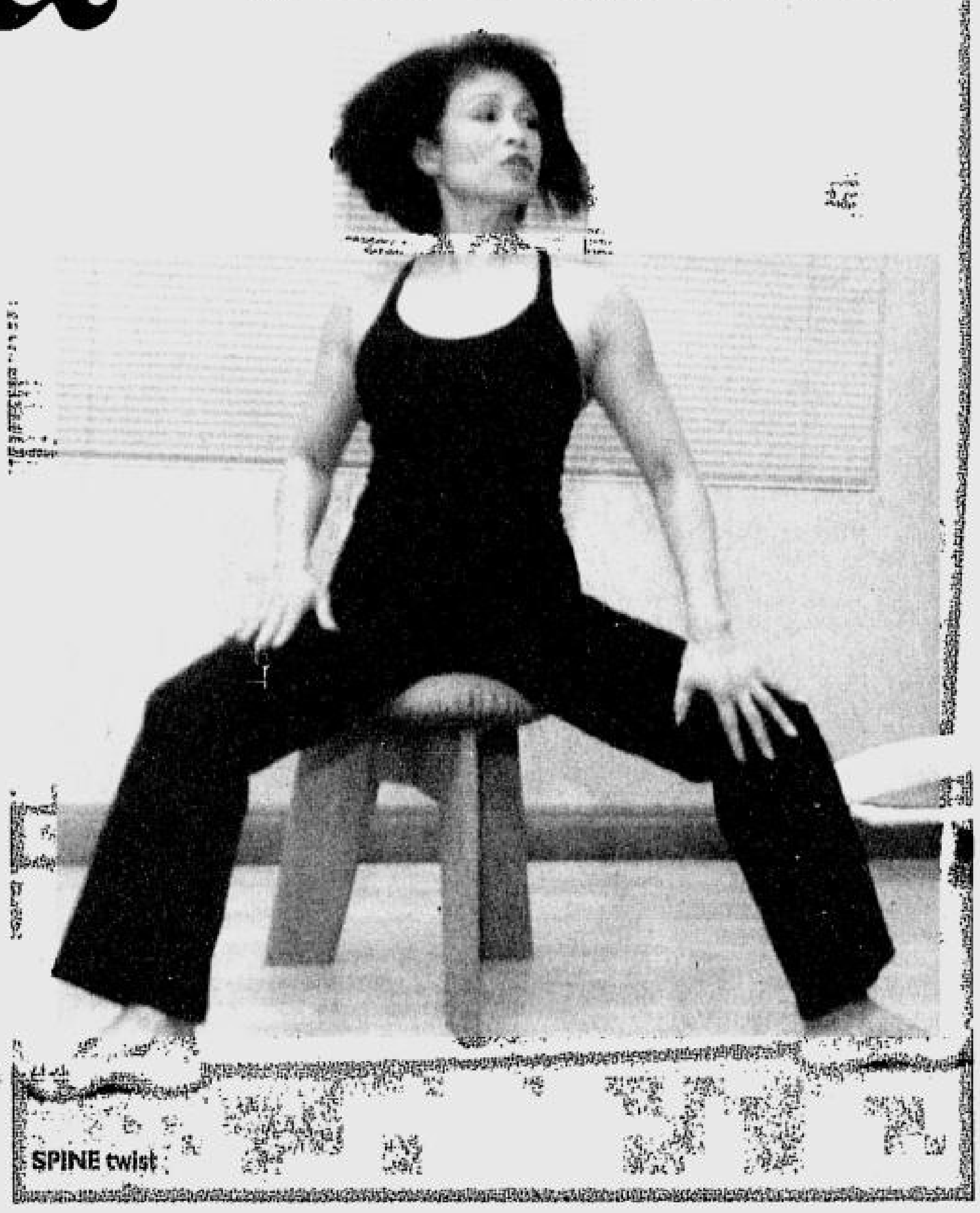
SINGLE leg stretch



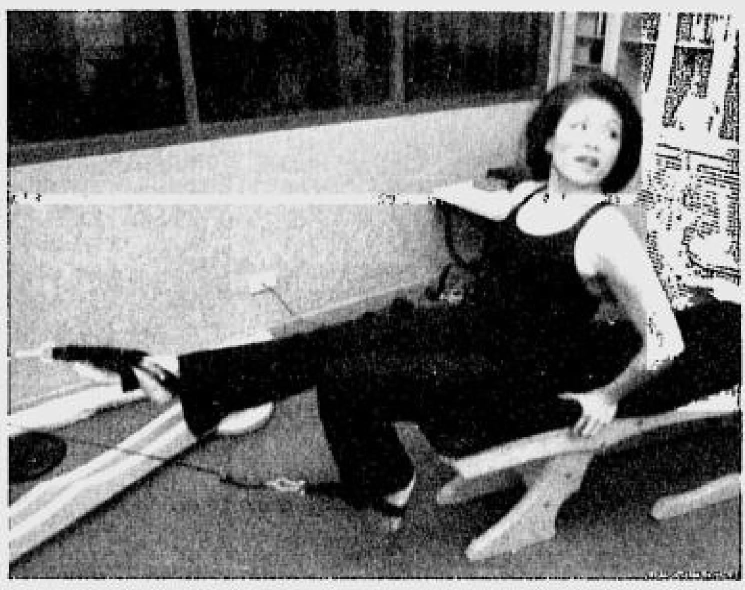
KNEELING cross stretch into spiraling/twisting motion

Yoga in motion

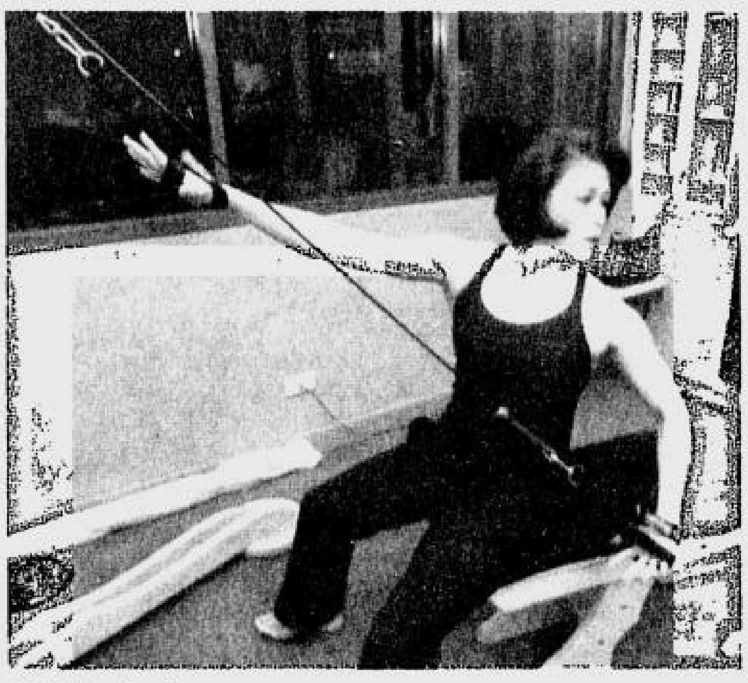
From page D1



SPINE twist



LEG lifting into extension



TWIST and pull

Therapeutic

In fact, the arching and curving of the body, expansion of the chest and opening of the solar plexus—coupled with proper breathing—are therapeutic, often symbolizing the opening up and letting go of many pent-up emotions.

Emotional tension and stress are released, Lim says. Many of her students go home crying, especially in the first few sessions. The workout relaxes the mind and stimulates the nervous system, which revitalizes the body's natural energy and promotes an overall sense of well-being.

The one-and-a-half hour class is also beneficial to individuals with physical limitations due to chronic pain, sports injuries or a particular health condition, says Lim.

In Germany, Gyrokinesis is used to rehabilitate people who cannot walk. "Because [the exercise] keeps opening and loosening the joints, there's no more compression. You can move better."

Lim recounts the story of a student afflicted with severe scoliosis who couldn't move around without feeling intense pain when she first enrolled, but who now cross-trains after three months of religiously attending her classes.

Another time, a client referred a friend who was supposed to undergo neck surgery abroad. "She tried all sorts of therapy and rehab. I was her last resort," she says. "After about a month of attending classes, she was pain-free and well. She used the money for her surgery for a European vacation instead."

Three-dimensional

Gyrotonic, on the other hand, is a one-on-one one-hour exercise performed on wooden machines that uses Gyrokinesis as the basis for its exercises. This revolutionary fitness concept simultaneously stretches and strengthens the body with minimal effort, and produces long, lean, flexible and toned muscles.

Lim says that, like Gyrokinesis, Gyrotonic works on the opposition of forces to achieve balance.

"We pull or push, then rotate, stretching the body's fullest limit. The motions are three-dimensional since the entire body is set in motion," explains Lim. It does not isolate certain muscles like typical gym machines do, which build uncoordinated strength.

> Gyrokinesis involves a set of fluid, nonstop circular exercises that tones the mind as well as the body

With Gyrotonic, even the surrounding ligaments and tendons are strengthened. Exercises may simulate the movements of, say, swimming, mimicking even the resistance of water, but minus the speed and resistance restrictions. Correct and exact execution of movement is better regulated, and there is maximum adjustability and control to each motion. Disciplined breathing, whether rhythmic or pulsating, also applies.

By increasing the spine's functional capacity, a well-proportioned body is achieved, making it less prone to injuries.

Gyrotonic also increases strength and flexibility, and can provide relief from chronic pain, correct misalignment, and improve neuromuscular coordination and balance.

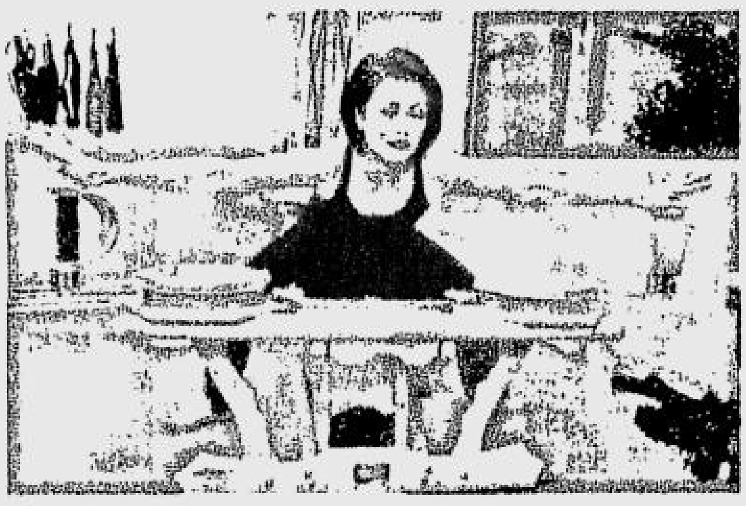
Of course, results should not be expected overnight. "It's hard work. For somebody to stick to a program, he must have that determination to want it for himself. No instructor can ever make you stick to a program. You must have that commitment that you want something better for yourself," says Lim.

Gyrokinesis and Gyrotonic were invented and developed by Hungarian ballet dancer Juliu Horvath, who sought political asylum in the United States in the early '70s. Horvath, who used to compete as a swimmer and gymnast before becoming a dancer, suffered a series of injuries a few years after defection which made him immobile and ended his dancing career.

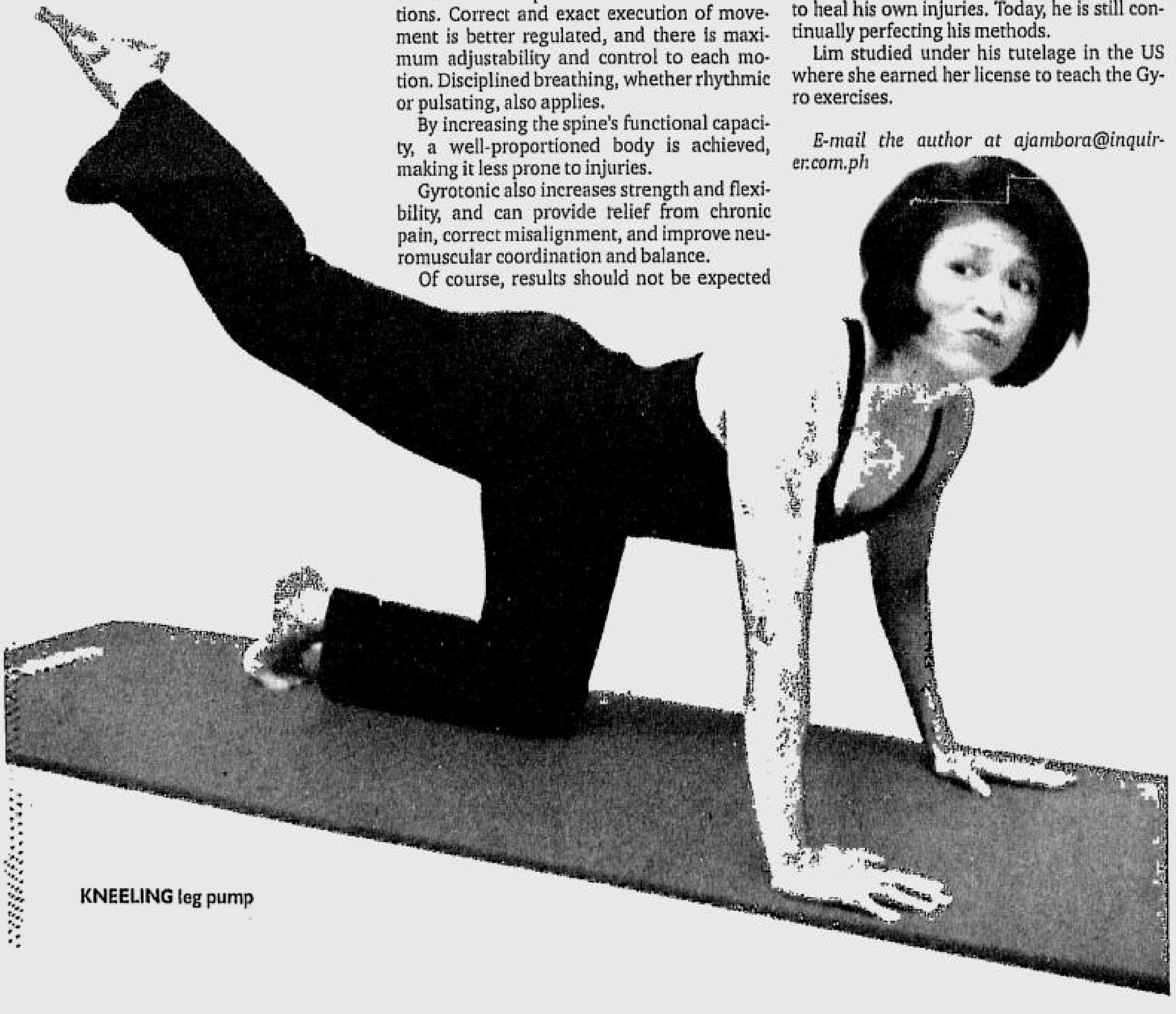
While recuperating, he studied and practiced yoga before inventing the Gyro exercises to heal his own injuries. Today, he is still continually perfecting his methods.

Lim studied under his tutelage in the US where she earned her license to teach the Gyro exercises.

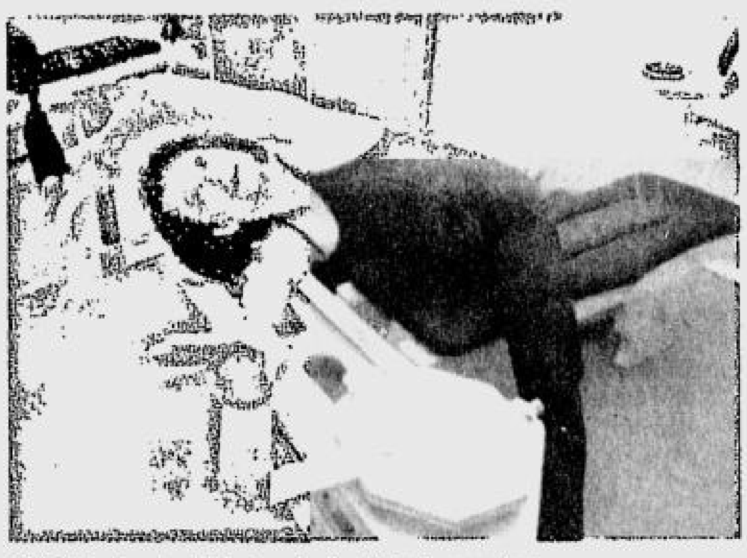
E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



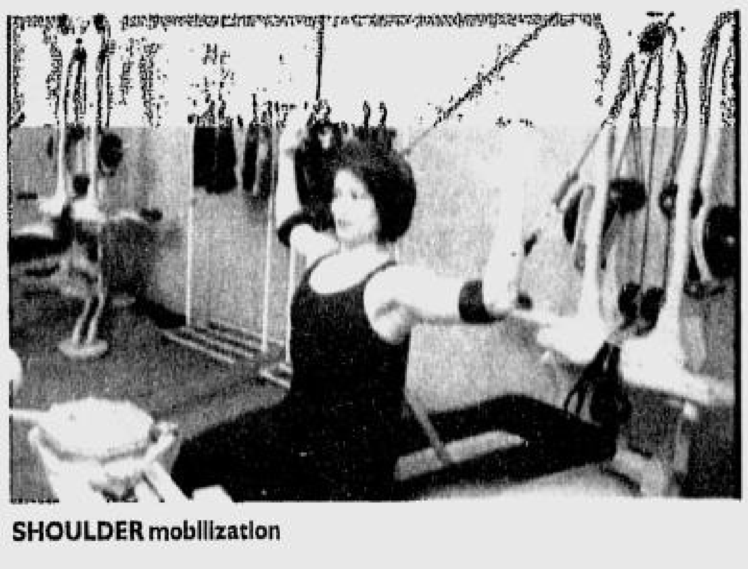
ARCH and curl with handle unit



KNEELING leg pump



CROSS grip stretch into spiraling/twisting motion



SHOULDER mobilization

CHILDREN all over the world actively participated in the 2002 International Coastal Cleanup.

IT TAKES two people to remove a huge debris from the shoreline.

PLASTIC bags and food wrappers litter shorelines and choke waterways.

Making a world of difference

By Linda B. Bolido

Thousands will troop to the beaches on Sept. 20 to do what little they can to clean up the coasts and seas

ON SATURDAY, Sept. 20, thousands of people from more than a hundred countries throughout the world will spend a day at the beach. It will not be strictly a fun day, although doubtless they will feel good, even if exhausted, at the end of it.

Sept. 20 is the annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), the day when a tiny fraction of the world's six billion population will try to repair some of the damage people have caused not only to the land but also to the seas, the rivers and other bodies of water, some of which had been practically killed through carelessness, greed, neglect and basically just a lack of understanding of how important water ecosystems are to humanity's own survival.

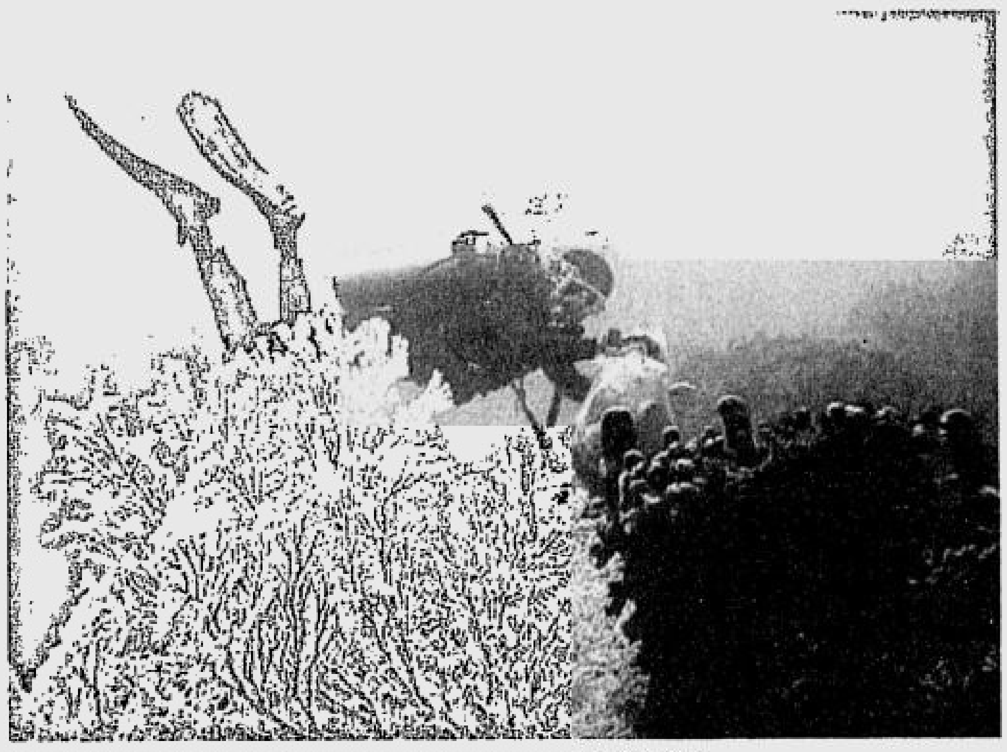
Last year, according to The Ocean Conservancy (TOC), host of the 18th ICC, the 400,000 volunteers who combed over 12,400 miles of shoreline, rivers, lakes and waterways—about three-fourths of Earth's surface—came up with a distressing "hoard."

- 8.22 million pounds of trash, about the weight of 37 blue whales, Earth's largest creatures
- all the rope, fishing line, fishing nets and plastic sheeting collected, if connected, would stretch 1,233 miles, nearly the length of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral formation
- the 100,000 participants from the Philippines, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Palau and Papua New Guinea picked up over 1.3 million pounds of debris from the coastline and underwater

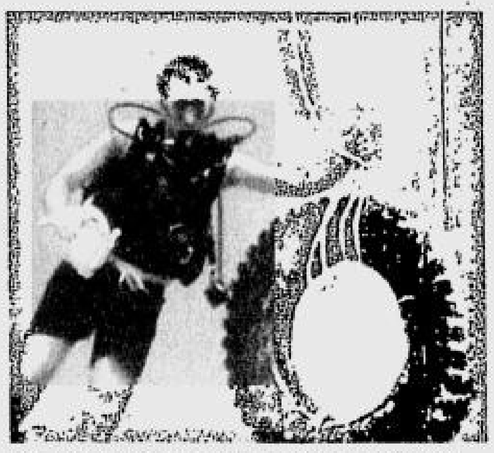
Infamous top 10

Heading the Top 10 list of debris items collected from both land and underwater was cigarettes and cigarette filters, TOC's report, "2002 International Coastal Cleanup," said. They accounted for 26.2 percent of the overall collection from both land and underwater and 26.3 percent of items just from land cleanups.

Completing the list are food wrappers/containers; caps/lids; beverage bottles (plastic) two liters or less; cups, plates, forks, knives, spoons; beverage cans; beverage bottles (glass); bags; straws, stirrers; and cigar tips.



AN UNDERWATER "scavenger" collects debris from a coral reef.



A DIVER ties a rope around an old tire so it can be lifted out of the water.

TRASH that find their way into coastal zones and underwater can pose health hazards.

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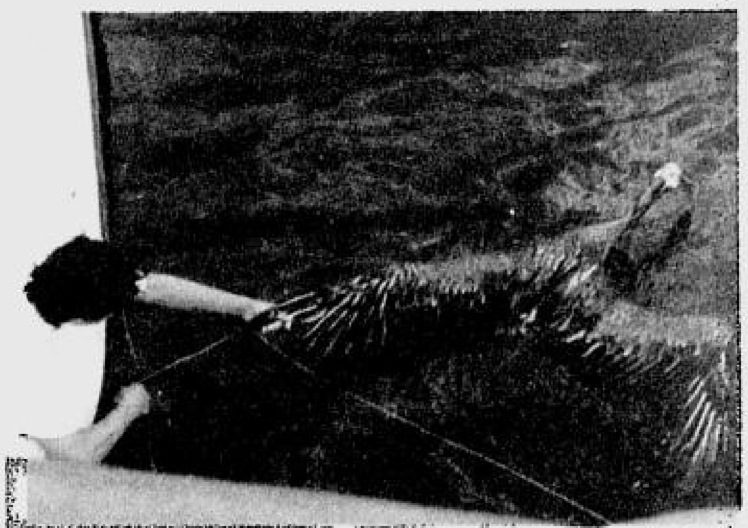
SOME Filipino participants in last year's cleanup with their "hoard"



MANY animals get entangled in debris and die when they can't free themselves.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OCEAN CONSERVANCY

The Top 10 list of items recovered from land was exactly the same as the overall list. But in the underwater debris list, building materials took the No. 10 spot, accounting for 2.8 percent of collections.

Filipino debris hunters not only found all those stuff in the Top 10 but also clothing and shoes, shotgun shells and wadding, six-pack holders, toys, bait containers/packaging, bleach/cleaner bottles, buoys/floats, crab/lobster/fish traps, crates, fishing line, fishing lures/light sticks, fishing nets, light bulbs/tubes, oil/lube bottles, pallets, plastic sheeting/tarps, rope, strapping brands, cigarette lighters, tobacco packaging/wrappers, 55-gallon drums, appliances, batteries, cars/car parts, tires, condoms, diapers, syringes, and tampons/tampon applicators, among others.

Trash bin

These finds seem to confirm what environmentalists have believed all along—that many Filipinos consider every body of water a convenient trash receptacle.

Items found on Philippine waters and shores made their way into a more alarming list, Dangerous Debris Items, which includes bags, balloons, crab/lobster/fish traps, fishing line, fishing nets, plastic sheeting/tarps, rope, six-pack holders, strapping bands and syringes.

Overall, the close to 90,000 volunteers who combed some 1,333 miles of both Philippine shores and underwater collected a total of 1,083,789 lbs of debris. Of the total, 1,081,635 lbs were collected on land.

Sounding once again the alarm about the mindless disposal of waste on the coasts and into bodies of water, TOC pointed out that debris constituted more than just an eyesore. "Items such as broken glass and syringes pose health risks to people, both in and out of the water. Debris can also cause habitat destruction, covering and smothering coral reefs and sea grasses. In addition, animal entanglement in debris is also a major concern," the Washington D.C.-based organization said.

During the 2002 cleanup, animals were found entangled in fishing lines and nets, ropes, six-pack holders and plastic bags, among others.

The World Wildlife Fund, in a new study, reports that nearly 1,000 whales, dolphins and porpoises drown every day from getting entangled in fishing gear.

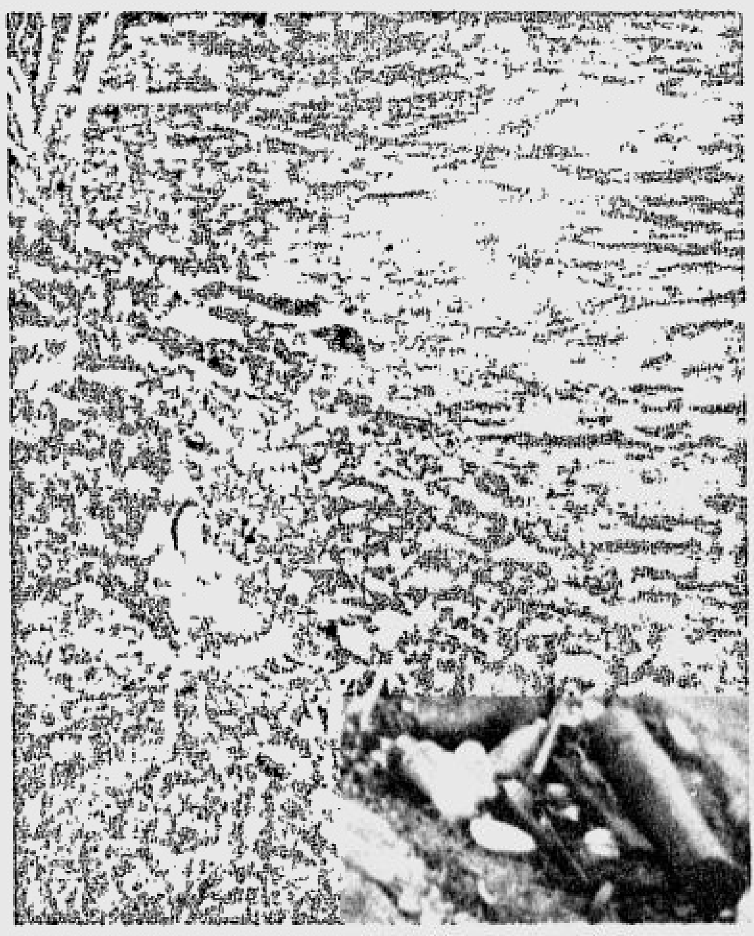
It is not just marine animals that are endangered by the debris. Even birds that feed on marine life, as well as amphibians and reptiles, are at risk. In fact, next to fish, which accounted for 38.6 percent of animals found entangled in debris, birds were the ones most frequently caught, 31.3 percent.

And yet, TOC said, "Marine debris is one of the most solvable pollution issues society faces, which makes it one of the most hopeful—and yet frustrating—problems on the planet. For the last decade or so, the data indicate much of the debris is waste from consumable goods that people have mishandled..."

Mark Tedesco, director of the American Environment Protection Agency's Long Island Sound office, New York, said, "People don't realize the impact of their actions. They don't realize where things go."

Until they do, concerned individuals will just have to make the annual trek to the coasts and hope that "a day at the beach can make a world of difference."

E-mail the author at lbolido@hotmail.com



OF THE 8.2 million lbs of trash collected last year, nearly 58 percent was related to shoreline recreational activities.

FILIPINO volunteers collected a total of 647 old tires from the 1,332 miles they covered.

San Fernando honors Nicolasa Dayrit and other women patriots

MAYOR Rey Aquino of San Fernando, Pampanga, has declared Sept. 10 of every year as "San Fernando Women's Day" to recognize the contributions of local women patriots during the Philippine-American war.

Specifically, the proclamation honors Nicolasa Pamintuan Dayrit, born on the same day in 1874.

Dayrit played a pivotal role in mending a rift between Gen. Antonio Luna, then chief of staff under Emilio Aguinaldo's revolutionary government, and Gen. Tomas Mascardo, who was commander of the Philippine troops in Guagua, Pampanga.

The quarrel stemmed from Mascardo's high-handed refusal to follow Luna's order to reinforce the latter's troops in the face of American bombardment. Incensed at the insubordination, Luna was set to engage Mascardo in a duel when concerned individuals intervened to restore unity in the fledgling Republic's armed forces.

Dayrit, with Pampanga's Red Cross president Praxedes Fajardo, led a delegation of women to offer flowers and kneel before Gen. Luna, beseeching him to abandon a violent confrontation with his insubordinate officer.

Other individuals also worked on Mascardo to submit himself to Luna's authority. In the end, the matter was resolved with Luna reasserting his command.

The leader of the women peacemakers who charmed the temperamental general was the daughter of Don Florentino Dayrit, a *cabeza de barangay*, and Doña Antonina Pamintuan.

Nicolasa was a prominent town beauty, and was also one of the well-educated women of her time. She was fluent in Spanish, was an accomplished pianist, and took an active part in ministering to the sick and wounded during the Revolution.

She married Vicente Panlilio, a Spanish-educated doctor, and had five children, all of whom became eminent professionals. They were one of Pampanga's *buena familias*, until their house was occupied by Japanese forces during World War II and the family moved to Manila. Dayrit died on April 12, 1945, at the age of 71.

NICOLASA Dayrit

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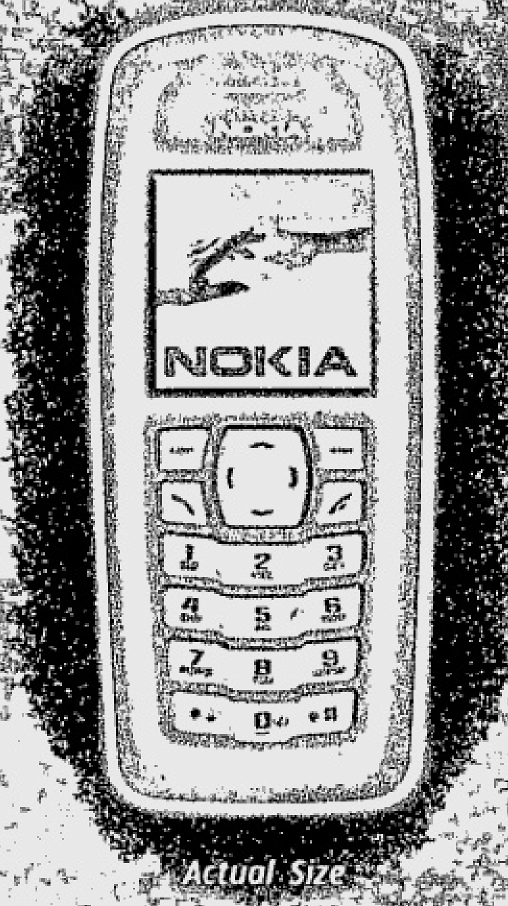

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